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Jim White on why the Tories have the blues

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Books

The power of poetry
New poems by Ted Hughes and Christopher
Reid. Plus: John le Carré in Panama

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Computer that can predict human conflict

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Chancellor to face down critics despite whispering campaign by Euro-sceptics

Clarke's crucial gamble

Tories on tightrope over tax handout

Michael White Political Editor

HE Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, will today take one of the crucial gambles of his po-litical career when he faces down the sim-mering hostility of a pre-election Tory conference without dangling budget tax cuts be-fore his wary audience.

In contrast to last year's conference tease about tax cuts — "You may think that, I couldn't possibly comment"

— Mr Clarke will give neither voters nor the City any clues, other than to repeat his man-tra that his November 26 bud-get will include "nothing

With many sceptics baying for cuts in tax and spending — as well as for the Chancellor's blood over Europe on the conference fringe — it will take all the party managers' manipulative skills to prevent a row finally boiling over. A whispering campaign is going

on to undermine Mr Clarke. In a conciliatory move. Mr Clarke has promised coleagues that he will say nothto enrage the sceptics by making the case for Britain to join the European single currency message which he has provocatively repeated in recent

"You will not be able to put a piece of paper between what the Prime Minister says and what he says," predicted one clarke adviser. "It will be a friends of Mr Major, Mr He-



positive speech. He will say

we will win." Since last year's tax tease - which led to a £3.2 billion net budget tax cut, the first for three years — Mr Clarke's unpopularity with the Eurosceptic wing of the party has deepened to the point where a persistent campaign is under way to undermine him or remove him from office.

Peter Lilley, a Euro-sceptic tax-cutter, is their designated replacement, the man whom rightwing Tories believe could give them two policies with which to beat rampant New Labour next spring. He was profiled as a "chancellor in waiting" by yesterday's Daily Telegraph.

The campaign against the Chancellor includes repeated claims that John Major of-fered his job to Michael Hesel-tine at the height of the crisis over John Redwood's leadership challenge last year.
"Clarke was expendable to keep Hezza at bay," one right-

winger claimed this week. "Major told Ken he was going to be Leader of the House. Rightwing Tories see the Chancellor as arrogant and provocative in the fights over Europe, and even the welfare state. The claim that he was close to leaving the Treasury 14 months ago, privately ped-dled by some senior Tories. has been categorically denied in Bournemouth this week by

seltine and Mr Clarke, "It's just not true," said one. On BBC1's Breakfast With Frost last Sunday, Mr Major praised Mr Clarke as a close personal friend and excellent Chancellor. Mr Heseltine, who has never shown an interest in the Treasury, ended up as Deputy Prime Minister, while his supporters voted for Mr Major against Mr Red-wood last July.

One measure of the turbu-lence last summer is the per-sistent claim that the night before he quit the Cabinet Mr Redwood offered to stand aside if Michael Portillo would challenge Mr Major in-stead. Mr Portillo, then the darling of the right, suppos-edly said: "I can't do it." Some rightwingers claim Mr Redwood planned to

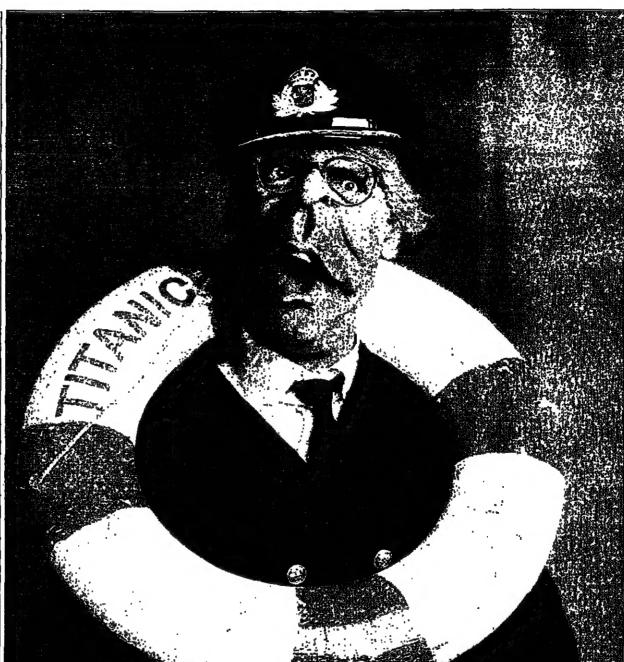
resign over last year's budget if Mr Major had not flushed him out in July. This week he has again challenged Mr Clarke to make deep spending cuts justifying lasting tax cuts
— instead of the "frothy cuts" that Mr Clarke says might have to be reversed. Mr Clarke will today stress

the classless, meritocratic message which Tory campaign managers are hoping to use against Tony Blair's Labour Party. He will also emphasise the need for a sustainable recovery which will deliver low taxes, low infla-tion and low interest rates over a long period.

Mr Clarke's cabinet rival,

Mr Lilley, acknowledged the whispering behind the scenes in Bournemouth in his conference speech yesterday. Warning of the threat posed to sovereignty by a Labour victory the social security secretary appealed for loyalty to Mr Major. "I am sick and tired of Con-

servatives who fuel the media by sniping at their col-leagues," he told delegates.
"In two minutes they can undo all the good work you, the party workers, have done in a year. So let's turn our fire on Labour."



John Major, captain of the Titanic, as portrayed in tonight's Labour Party political broadcast. Spitting Image was axed in January, but its latex puppets have been dusted down for a final appearance, and Labour hopes it will avert the big switch-off which accompanies party propaganda. A Spitting Image spokesman said: "It is a fitting high to go out on."

Press warned on royal stories

ORD Wakeham, the chairman of the Press-Complaints Commission, last night issued his most forceful condemnation of "unjustified" newspaper report-ing of the royal family and warned it could lead to statu-

tory controls on the media. The success of press self-regulation has been been put spate of royal stories, he says. Editors do not have *cart*e blanche to run intrusive stories without any defence of public interest.

"Nobody would benefit from statutory controls — neither the public, whose complaints we deal with (free of charge) in their hundreds every month, nor industry, which would be dragged into a quagmire of litigation," the PCC chairman says in a letter

to today's Times. Lord Wakeham's warning follows an embarrassing climbdown by the Sun news-paper over its coverage of a hoax video tape purporting to show Princess Diana and her

former lover James Hewitt. Recent coverage of the Duchess of York's private life as been criticised and Buckingham Palace has asked the Daily Express to retract a "a crush" on a 17-year-old schoolgiri.

Lord Wakeham highlights his particular concerns about the effects of such coverage on the children of the royals "When the story breaks they are the first to suffer. I can could — why, in the circumstances, those individuals are reluctant to complain and prolong the suffering through

"This is infortunate because it might lead some newspapers into believing that they have carte blanche to invade their privacy," he

Sun plea on heaxers, page 4

Saime vastu pükse (We wuz robbed) Call for tribunal

Patrick Glenn in Tallinn

NE team in Tallinn, there's Tallinn," sang the kilted hordes on the terrace of the Kadriory stadium in the Estonian capital. For once, they had it — literally as well as metaphorically dead right. Scotland were on their

own as kick-off approached in yesterday's World Cup qualifying match. Estonia were 100 kilometres away. resisting an order from Fifa, international football's governing body, to be at their ground by 3pm.
At the appointed hour,
the Scotland team, the Yu-

goslav referee and his two assistants took the field, exchanged formalities in the centre circle — handshakes all round — and went through a mock coin-toss-

As John Collins, the Scotland captain, won the call, one of the assistant referees - clearly a stickler for the rules - went to the "home" goal and checked the nets. The referee signalled the start; Billy Dodds, the Ab-erdeen striker, slipped the ball to Collins, whose first touch brought the second, and final, toot of Miroslav Radoman's whistle; another famous victory was



A Scottish fan cheers the final whistle

added to the Scottish canon and their prospects of qualifying for France '98 from Group 4 had spared.
Officially, the score
will read 3-0.

The farce had been caused by the poor flood-lighting at the Kadriorg stadium. On Tuesday night,

the Scots were concerned about lighting which caused difficulties in cer-

tain parts of the field, most notably from the low-level glare of temporary lamps focusing on one goal area.

After some vacillation by the event's official Fifa

Gantenbein of Luxembourg, it was determined that the match would start at its original time of

Gantenbein, however, was tormented through the night and, after hurried consultation with his Fifa bosses in Zurich, a final dethe match forward to 3pm. The Estonians insisted

that it was a logistical im-possibility for them as some of their part-time players were still at work as were their supporters - and the others were at a training camp at Kethna,

62 miles away. Aiver Pohlak, the Estonian FA president, said: "We shall leave our headquarters at 4pm as sched-uled for a 6.45pm kick-off." will have been and gone by then and there will be no game today. But we do think the Scottish FA have been very, very unfair to

The comic element of the affair was not lost on the travelling fans, who added another song or two the their repertoire. "Sing in the daylight, we only sing in the daylight" was fol-lowed by the "Always look on the bright side of life". *We wuz robbed in Estonian

gains strength

David Hencke Westminster Corresponden

OUG Hoyle, a promi-nent member of the Commons standards and privileges committee yes-terday called for an independent tribunal chaired by a judge to investigate the "cash for questions" scandal because Parliament's top body was not

capable of doing the job. In a frank admission to the Guardian, the chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party said: "I don't believe that the Commissioner for Standards [Sir Gordon Downey] was set up to consider such a far-reaching and detailed inquiry which affects the whole standing of

"It is far too large an in-quiry to be undertaken with such limited staffing. The public will not like Parliament to be examining itself on such a serious issue. Mr Hoyle, the MP for Warrington North, also disclosed that he would not participate in any hearings of the inquiry because £500 from Ian Greer Associates, the lobbying com-pany at the centre of the scan-dal, was paid into his election

"I did not accept, nor did I returns.

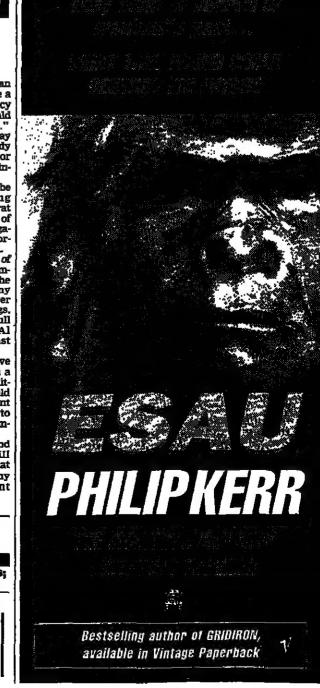
Greer, but because he made a donation to my constituency in 1987 I do not think it would be right of me to participate." His warning comes a day

after Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown wrote to John Major demanding an independent in quiry chaired by a judge. There is understood to be growing concern among Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs about the impartiality of

the body to handle the allega tions against disgraced for-mer minister Neil Hamilton. Those with experience of the former privileges com-mittee, disbanded after the Nolan report, feel that Tony Newton, the Cabinet minister who chairs the proceedings, did his best to hide the full extent of Mohamed Al Faved's allegations against

Some Labour MPs believe that Mr Newton engaged in a cover-up both at the committee - by insisting it was held in secret — and in Parlian by tabling a special motion to prevent the findings becoming public.
MPs on the standards and

privileges committee will meet on Monday for what looks certain to be a stormy session when Parliament



Britain

World News gor Podlonev, the lagsian delence

anister, will lockly confront a growing demoralised, often Finance

experiment to bring competition to the gas market in south-west England Sport

England returned to Wembley for the first time since Euro 96, taking on bogey side Poland in a World Cup z, qualifying match.

Comment and Letters 8 Oblivaries 10 Crossword 15; Weather 16;

Radio 16: TV 16



Conference sketch

Rifkind has sweet Tables turned on Taliban smell of success



Simon Hoggart

received the longest standing ovation of his life yesterday, suggesting that be may at last have conquered his halitosis problem.

As regular readers know, Mr Rifkind has, in the past, suffered from breath so bad it could stop a runaway horse. This caused some anxiety when he was promoted to his present job. One had a vision of foreign dignitaries fleeing the conference table amid cries of "Mein Gott!", "Zut"

Scottish journalists tell me the problem, while still present, is milder than it once was, "You can get quite close to him on a good day," one said. in any event, clouds of minty freshness were billow-ing out over the Tory conference yesterday. Mr Rifkind sprayed them with Gold Spot, rubbed Old Spice under their arms, douched them in mange flavoured body-scrub, and left them feeling so tingling good that they might even make him party leader — now that John Redwood has ruled himself out by his Panorama ap-

pearance this week. An hour later we enjoyed an innovation, a question and answer session with the Prime Minister. Mr Major seemed obsessed with the notion that we hacks believed the questions would be planted. We didn't. We knew that, even selected at random. every questioner would be as gentle as any sucking Fabri-cant. As Hilaire Belloc nearly wrote: "You cannot hope to orchestrate / Thank God, a Tory delegate. / But seeing * what the creep will do / Unfixed, there's no occasion to."

The first questioner put the PM on the spot with a toughie concerning "Labour's paymasters, the trade unions". Mr Major reeled from this savage assault. "And the press think that the questions are planted!" he said. "They

should ask one or two ques tioners — that should satisfy their cynical minds! The second delegate had another vicious poser. Since pri-

vatisation had been such a nuge success, how was the Government going to get the message across to the voters: A black woman, Lurline hampagnie, wanted the world to know that the Tories were the party for ethnic mi-

Mr Major took his jacket off, to show he meant business. Someone wanted to know what the Government was going to do about scroungers and abusers of the welfare system. These people were ruthless. A woman who wanted handguns banned applied some Vaseline first: "You did not get where you are today by waiting to hear what your opinion should be," she claimed. Nonsense; that's exactly how he got where he is

today.

A man who wanted to know about the single currency began by announcing that "traditional Tory voters are coming home"! Mr Major replied: "Those cynical journalists would have to be pretty cynical to imagine that these questions are rigged!"

As the questions got harsher ("What can we tell voters to assure them that this nation is safe in our hands?") Mr Major tried to wriggle off the hook by rambling. We joined him at a school in a slum area of Lima, where he met "a whole selection of mop

pets", one of whom wanted to be a brain surgeon. It was not quite clear what lesson the ambitious Peruvian moppet had for us, but that didn't matter, because moments later we were at Chequers in the company of

The anecdote went on forever. Like all truly heroic bores, Mr Major does not spare a single detail, including President Yeltsin's footwear and his own pullover. The punchline — Russian

interpreter bangs on door of local pub. "Open up, it's the President of Russial" followed by reply from inside, "And this is the Kaiser!" — woo loud applause. Yet I was puzzled. Surely the Chequers local is one place where world leaders are to be found drinking most weekends. Indeed, it possibly

First night

Tricks leave cold classic lifeless

Lyn Gardner

National Indoor Arena,

HE car park attendant was not encouraging: pointing to the acres of empty places, he said I could park anywhere, he was not expecting many for "the foreign thing" tonight. Come next week, it would be a different matter, Cliff Richard would be here to "give his Heathcliff". "The foreign thing", other-

wise known as Aeschylus's lost epic tragedy, Les Dan-aïdes, directed by the acclaimed Romanian Silviu Pur carete, whose production of Phaedra was a wonder to behold, may not be a crowd puller, but the sparsity of the audience was made up for by the numbers on stage. Les Danaides is the Greek tragedy with a chorus of more than 100. There are times when, even on a stage the size of a football pitch, it lookes as if

there may be a nasty pile-up. Only one part of the tetral-ogy. The Suppliants, has survived, so Purcarete has turned detective, piecing together scraps and fragments, drawing on other texts by Aeschylus and, if necessary, inventing to fill in the gaps in a story that recounts the birth of the Greek nation and, in effect, the beginning of

European civilisation.
"Europa" is the first word of the text, underlining Pur-carete's belief that the Danaides are our ancestors; "the eggs of humanity today". The Danaides are the 50

daughters of Danaos who, pur-sued by their cousins, the 50

sons of Aegyptus, seek sanctu-ary on the shores of Argos. Here they are cornered by the sons, who force them into mar-riage. But the Danaides take a bloody revenge, killing their grooms on their wedding night. In turn, all but one of the Danaides are killed and their ghosts condemned to eternal torture.

Purcarete's production, pe formed in French with English surtitles, is big, for-mal, cold and very white, and offers 101 ingenious uses for an empty suitcase. The Dan-aides, permanent, restless refugees in both life and death, lug their cases about, one min-ute using them as coffins or cutlery drawers and the next using them as large, lego-style building bricks. Danaos, their father, who sports a goatee beard and pendulous woman's breasts, is literally gobbled up by a suitcase.

There are plenty of arrest-ing images like that in an eve-ning where the threatening swell of male violence repre sented by the saffron-robed sons of Aegyptus, who would not be out of place at a football stadium, is contrasted with the fluttery femininity of the blue-clad Danaïdes, who run round in whirlpools of terror The women's revenge is ter rifying and wonderfully do-

mestic. "A job well done," the gods observe ironically. stantly looking to see how Pur carete will surprise you next, the piece is really engaging only on an intellectual level. Its distant formality and persistent tricksiness render it This review appeared in later editions of vesterday's

Inspector wins round

Sarah Boseley

APOLICE inspector has been given the go-shead to accuse the Lincolnshire constabulary at an industrial tribunal of "warning off" colleagues who she says support her allegations of sexual harassment and of giving

Inspector Cydena Fleming's allegations from becoming peals tribunal ruled she could introduce the evidence as

Ms Fleming, aged 38, al leges that the problems at Gainsborough police station began after she rejected the sexual advances of one police good jobs to those prepared to give evidence against her.

Yesterday Lincolnshire's jected, she says, to "gross inchief constable failed to stop stitutional hostility".



Jonathan Steele in Pul-i-Khumri, north of

HE Taliban Islamic militias admitted yesterday they had suffered their first serious losses in battle since seizing power across most of Afghanistan, including the capital, Kabul,

The tables were turned on Tuesday by an offensive, backed by heavy shelling, across the southern slopes of the strategic Salang Pass, by troops fighting under General

mer defence minister loyal to country's deposed

Mountain ambush scatters fighters and halts advance

The assault appeared to have scattered and badly damaged the Taliban, with reports claiming that a large Talihan force is trapped in the pass, cut off from their base at Gulbahar from which they had tried to advance into Gen Massoud's Panjshir valley stronghold. "There are no Taliban left in Gulbahar," a Western aid worker said.

He said a colleague in the Taliban headquarter town of Jabal-os-Siraj, where the road to Gulbahar forks from the

lang Pass. nad counted 39 dead Taliban being brought down the highway during a

single hour late on Tuesday. The aid worker said the Taliban had suffered at least 100 dead and many more wounded in fighting that raged overnight as Gea Mas-soud's men shelled concentrations of fighters and reinforcements neading for the Salang Pass across the Hindu Kush mountain range.

The Taliban claimed to have fended off the attack but. unusually, conceded 15 dead. "It was hard to contain the attacks and the fighting was

Ahmed Shah Massoud, for | main highway up to the Sa- | very serious, but we brought up heavy reinforcements and halted it. We are now in control," said Maulavi Khairulla Haqani, the Salang battlefield Talihan commander.

But his front line at Qalatak, about nine miles north of Jabal-os-Saraj, was 13 miles south of where it was before the attack began on Tuesday morning.

Troops loyal to General Abdul Rashid Dostam, the powerful warlord of northern. Afghanistan who entered the war against the Taliban on Tuesday, hold key positions higher up the pass but did not take part in the ambush.

He has been careful not to take the offensive against the Taliban after accusing them of putting Afghanistan's security at risk by not calling a ceasefire and joining talks for a coalition government.

The ambush — on the south-ern slopes of the pass at Olang a village a few miles north of Jebel-us-Saraj — was launched by Basir Salangi, a local conmander. His headquarters had been occupied a few days earlier by the Taliban who then used it as their front line base at the foot of the ascent towards the Salang tunnel.

month-old-baby in 1984. He

was once acquitted of rape

after defending himself. He

had also been jailed for vio

lent assaults on women, in-

cluding his wife, whom he

once beat with sticks and flex over an eight-hour period.

Court quiz row rapist gets life

Change in law urged after victim's six days in witness box reliving attack

Stuart Millar

MULTIPLE rapist who provoked fury by cross-examining his victim about her ordeal for six days was yesterday given two life senences at the Old Bailey.

Ralstan Edwards, aged 42 who has a long record of convictions for a rape and assaults on women, was con-victed in August of twice raping Julia Mason over a 16 our period. Sentencing him to life on

each charge yesterday, Judge Ann Goddard told Edwards, of Catford, south-east London: In my view, you are a danger to women which in the past have clearly

Edwards's lengthy trial aused a public outcry and led to calls for a change in the law that allowed an alleged sex attacker defending him-self to cross-examine his victim. During the cross-exami-

attack and appeared to relish making Ms Mason, a 34-year-old mother-of-two, relive in detail the 16 hours in which he raped and humiliated her at his filthy home. She had to be prescribed a tranquillise during his cross-examination, and at one stage ran from court complaining she was feeling physically sick. Ms Mason, who was not in

court yesterday because of ill-ness, described the questioning as being raped all over again, and is now leading calls for the law to be changed. She has waived her right to anonymity.

Outside the court vesterday her boyfriend, Billy Powers, and a Victim Support repre sentative, Maureen Tubby, welcomed the sentence in a short statement. "From day one, Julia wanted the law changed. Hopefully, that will now happen speedily."

The sentence sparked renewed demands that the right of the victim take precedence over those of the accused. Helen Peggs, of Vic-tim Support, said: "We are very concerned about the implications of this case. The prospect of not only facing the defendant, but being subjected to cross-examination by him in court must be terri-



A drawing of Ralstan Edwards (right) in court at the Old Bailey during his rape trail, in which he defended himse

will, and you do not consider !

Edwards had blighted Ms

Edwards had a previous

conviction for breaking into a

young woman's flat and rap-ing her in front of her 16-

your victims at all."

Mason's life, she added

will thoroughly review the Julie Bindel, of the International Conference on Vio-lence, Abuse and Women's Citizenship, said she hoped the sentence would deter other attackers. "One change which could be implemented immediately is an exemption clause preventing anybody

accused of a sexual offence from cross-examining their victims. We do it with cases involving children and it should be introduced for

links to protect women. But people do have a right by law to defend themselves. issue is how women are treated by the law.

Judge Goddard said Ed-wards had shown no sign of remorse, but made it clear that she had not increased the sentence because he had contested the charges or de-

"I told the jury they might think you were single-minded and determined during the trial," she told him. "That is vomen."

But Linda Diggin, co-ordiare an intelligent man. You ring the cross-exami-he wore the same "We hope that following as he did for the this case, the Government would help is the use of video inflict harm on a woman, you

> 'Having to face questions from the defendant in court must be terrifying beyond

> > **Helen Peggs**

belief'

Julia Mason: cross-examination was liked being raped again Victim Support **BMW** pledges to kickstart Rover

gap in the quality of Rovers and BMW standards. This pany BMW yesterday unveiled ambitious plans to boost production at its Rover subsidiary by 60 per cent, to 800,000 cars a year. But it warned there would be no increase in jobs and the UK car company would remain in the red until the turn of the century. Pledging to invest £500 mil-

lion a year in Rover until the year 2000, Walter Hasselkus, the UK company's chief exec-utive, said BMW would replace Rover's entire model range to make it more profit-able and more upmarket, and to simplify its manufacturing.

Dr Hasselkus, who became chief executive six weeks ago amid reports of disquiet about the UK company's performance, said the parent group wanted to put Rover "on to the map as a very British, highly successful, respected and profitable car company".

a South American engine plant to supply engines for the new version of the Mini. Some of the higher output at Rover would follow the launch of the new Mini. Other new products would account

for the remainder of the

partly due to the greater age of Rover designs. Invest-

ment would put this right.

Dr Hasselkus was speaking

in the wake of reports that

BMW and Rover were at log-

gerheads over investment

plans and the pace of new car

development. Last week BMW

announced it was to invest in

The strategy would not create new jobs, given that BMW wants Rover to boost productivity by 4 per cent a year. In a veiled warning to the Government, Dr Hasselkus said the BMW board would need nearly £60 million of state aid to safeguard 2,000 Rover jobs by going ahead with a new £500 million engine plant in the West

Midlands.
Pointing out that BMW

their millions, but in their hundreds of thousands."

But he warned there was a plant, Dr Hasselkus indicated counting standards only by would spell an end to Rover engine manufacturing within By then BMW would have invested £3 billion in the group. The German parent 10 years. The Government

has yet to respond to BMW's BMW bought Rover from British Aerospace for £300 million in 1994 The group has already invested £1.5 billion in the UK company. Brushing aside suggestions that BMW was disappointed with the acquisition. Dr Hasselkus said

was investing for the long In an attempt to dispel fears that Rover would be swal-lowed up by BMW, Dr Hassel-kus said the two companies would share engines and electronics, which account for an increasing proportion of the

BL/Rover Output and employee (A) Output, 000s cars (left scale)

Clive, everyone knows it's good to talk, but sometimes it's good to listen.

Clive Anderson can talk, And talk, And talk, In this week's Radio Times future guests can learn how to get a word in edgeways.

Kadiolimes IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT.

Among the T Stir Was the

attracted #

conference y

Lighter to

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The Guardian Thursday October 10 1996

Disharmony over song's 'big thank you' for grass that's jewelled and jets refuelled





Bacon frying, vicar trying, choir retiring

Kamal Ahmed on the row over songs of 'Christianic renewal' that sparked a walk-out by members of a church choir

The Church, traditional music and the thorny question of the need to

Yesterday St Mary's Church in Wroxham, Norfolk was rent asunder after most of its highly respected choir walked out over a row about the choice of music. The vicar, the Reverend Andrew Parsons, wanted something modern that the children could relate to. Choir members wanted something more

Carole Tims, the choir director, was one of those who walked out, followed by three other male singers and 11

The organist, Nick Walmsley, has also refused to play until the "sensitive issue" is sorted out. For a choir of 22 it has been a big blow. At the centre of the rumpus

is the hymn Autumn Days, which critics say is illustrative of a general downward trend in the quality of church music which in the past has produced such favourites as Abide With Me, Praise My Soul the King of Heaven and Dear Lord and Father of

Autumn Days is rather more parochial. It tells chil-dren:to say a "big thank you" for the smell of frying bacon in the morning, jets refuelling in the sky and the "taste of apple pie". Mr Walmsley de-

is a volatile mixture, scribed the hymn, in which he Church, traditional distribution of the thorny uestion of the need to Parishioners first heard of

the problems in an article written by Mr Parsons in the

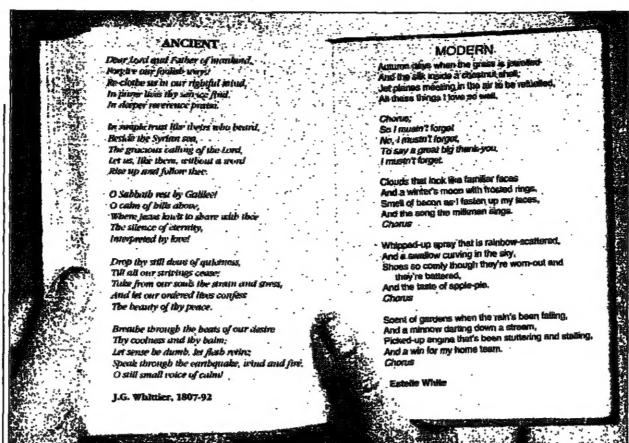
"Following intemperate remarks made recently at the church council and in the vestry it has been impossible to continue," he wrote. "The church council decided to accept the resignations."
Some church members are

particularly angry about evangelical songs chosen at joint services St Mary's holds with the local United Reform Church. There has also been controversy over the timing of Sunday services.
"We have offered a number

of compromises but none of them seems to suit," said Mr Parsons, whose three chil-dren still sing in the choir. "Some people have been somewhat inflexible over the

choice of hymns. But we are recruiting again and the choir will continue. Mrs Tims said: "Most of the parents are devastated and

angry about what has been going on.
"There was frustration at the direction the church council wanted the choir to follow. Some members did not always care for the music chosen at the joint services with the United Reform Church. They did not like the



Songs of praise; 'Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire' or 'Scent of gardens when the rain's been falling'

in my life." Autumn Days was written by Estelle White, a former nun who has been cited as one of the founders of the "Christianic renewal" move-

services by writing more accessible music.

Other hymns in the genre include Peace Perfect Peace and As Gentle as Silence, which both appear in the Cel-

"It has been heartbreaking, ment of the 1970s, A group of ebration Hymnal for Every has published Ms White's leel bereaved. Not singing at composers decided to try to one. Autumn Days appears in hymns for more than 30 St Mary's has left a huge hole broaden the appeal of church the BBC publication Come years. "Some people think and Praise, widely used for primary school assemblies. "Estelle White has done huge amount to encourage people back into church," said Joan McCrimmon, who

bymns for more than 30 years. "Some people think that it is only pre-19th centhat it is only pre-19th cen-tury music that people should be singing, but there has to be variety. Children love her work, I find it terrible that

less of 23 per month. BARCLAYS: Cheque Account details are based on the Bandays Bank Account. The costs comprise fees of 25 per month. NAT WEST Cheque Account details are based on the Current Plus Account. The costs comprise fees of 29 per month. All information correct at 13 September 1996, but fees may vary.

Member: HSBC ** Group Gro

Dirty tricks case officer wins appeal

Richard Norton-Taylor

OLIN Wallace, a former army officer who blew the whistle on a covert black propaganda campaign in Northern Ireland, demanded a full inquiry into his prosecution for manslaughter after his conviction was quashed by the Court of Appeal

Mr Wallace, who has fought for 16 years to clear his name, said evidence at his trial was "manufactured and manipu-lated". He believed his friend, Jonathan Lewis, was killed by criminal members of the antiques trade in Brighton. He said: "The police have evidence of this but have sup-

He said his lawyers had been passed police reports — not disclosed at the appeal hearing — indicating a link with the antiques trade. He also called for a government investigation into how his case was handled.

His solicitor. Jim Nichol, told the Guardian there was 'strong evidence" to suggest the security services were "helping the prosecution along". His suspicions were first aroused when he learnt that the security services had privately approached the Civil Service Appeal Board in 1975 after Mr Wallace was dismissed from his secret role in Northern Ireland.

He pointed to a passage in the judgment — described as significant by Lord Bingham. the Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Owen and Mr Justice Connell — referring to a pretrial agreement between the prosecution and defence that there would be no mention of Mr Wallace's brief involvement in a course with SAS soldiers.

The court noted the agree

nent was "frustrated" by the publication in a number of newspapers at a crucial point in the trial of a photograph of Mr Wallace posing in full SAS uniform. The defence had argued that the pictures "could well have led the jury to disbe-lieve him when he denied any raining in unarmed combat"

The judges also pointed out that Iain West, a senior Home Office pathologist, said evidence he gave about how Mr Lewis was struck unconconversation with an Ameri can secret service agent". Mr West described the blow

to Mr Lewis - "like a pile driver" — as "most unusual". That, said the judges, was something of an understatement". Neither Dr West nor Professor Keith Mant — who "karate-type chop" — had ever seen, or heard, or read of, a fracture caused that way. But the court's key finding

was that new evidence — now supported by Dr West — showed Mr Lewis was struck shortly before he drowned. Though the prosecution conceded this on appeal, a central plank of its case at the trial was that Mr Wallace had knocked out Mr Lewis earlier and had bidden the body for several hours.

The appeal court said the trial judge had therefore misdirected the court, and the ury had probably discounted evidence from a crucial witness, Amanda Metcalfe, who said she saw Mr Lewis long after the prosecution claimed he had been knocked out.

Mr Wallace bad initially lied to the police about when he last saw Mr Lewis. But the appeal court could not rule out a reasonable possibility of an innocent explanation, in-cluding Mr Wallace's "amorous but not adulterous' relationship with Mr Lewis' wife, a colleague at work.

Ann Curno, QC, for the prosecution, asked for a tion Service said it could not comment because the case remained sub judice.

Mr Wallace, 53, said he would be seeking compensation. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison in 1981, and was released on parole in 1986. He is now director of a management consultancy.



Colin Wallace: claims trial

Police may now face race cial

Insurers fear £640m Clarke tax ruse

special dividend pay-outs. ums were announced in the The Government has also de 1993 budget and came into ef-

their gross income on motor, warned, for example, that the

Clare Dyer on the implications to officers of a ground-breaking appeal court ruling

claims against the police for race discrimination. Three judges held for the

first time that police are cov-ered by the Race Relations Act because they provide services to the public when they answer 999 calls or give other But Lords Justices Peter Gibson, Otton and Hutchison

ruled that the act does not apply to the Metropolitan Police as a body, and that claims can only be brought against individual officers. Unless overturned by the House of Lords, the ruling means that officers could face

Lisa Bucidngham and Pauline Springett

bracing itself for a doubling of premium

boost revenue, giving him some keway for possible in-

Industry sources said yes-terday that the sector is work-ing on the assumption that

taxes on insurance premiums will double next month, from

2.5 per cent to 5 per cent.

That would raise an extra

2846 million a year for the Treasury, which has said it will claw back more funds

from the City by removing tax exemptions from some

come tax cuts.

taxes as part of Chancellor cut income tax rates of the pound. He is under income tax rates of the pound. He is under increasing backbeach pressure tax cutting bud-

GROUND-breaking rul-ing by the Court of Ap-peal yesterday opens the way for compensation of their own pockets.

The case was brought by a teenage Somalian refugee, Zeinab Farah, who alleges that officers from the Met wrongly arrested and prosecuted her after responding to a 999 call. She claims that in July 1994, when she was 17, she called the police after she

she called the police after she and her 10-year-old cousin were attacked by white teen-agers who set a dog on them. She alleges that instead of helping her, officers from Greenwich and Lewisham stations in south London ar-rested her without cause, detained her, and charged her with affray, assault and caus-

cided to sell off the air traffic

control system.

Mr Clarke needs to pull in

about £1.6 billion of addi-tional revenues in order to

cut income tax rates by lp in

to produce a tax cutting budget to improve the Conserva-tive Party's chances of win-

ning the general election.

A rise to 5 per cent in the insurance premium tax would add more than 530 a year to

the average family's premiums. But it would penalise the poorest households, which

spend about 11 per cent of

house and contents cover.

ing unnecessary suffering to a dog. Six months later she appeared in court but was acquitted after the prosecution offered no evidence. Yesterday's ruling, which

followed a police application to strike her claim out, may not help Ms Farah because she filed only against the Met-ropolitan Police Commis-sioner. To sue the Individual officers, she would have to persuade a court to override time limits on bringing legal

Ms Farah hopes to appeal to the House of Lords, a move supported by Metropolitan
Police Commissioner Sir Paul
Condon, who wants the law
clarified. Her solicitor, Jane
Deighton, said she would go
ahead with claims for danages for false imprisonment, malicious prosecution and as-sault and battery, worth be-tween £25,000 and £100,000.

fect a year later. Then the Chancellor played down fears

that the new tax — which is imposed on household, motor

and health policies — would be steadily increased over the

years and be presented it as

an alternative to VAT on

Competition in the insur-

ance industry in recent years

has held down premiums

which has largely disguised the impact of the new tax.

This has meant that insurers

have been unable to prove that business has been lost be-

cause of it. But the Associa-

tion of British Insurers has

take-up of insurance by some

Taxes on insurance premi- | socio-economic groups in | sured motorists on the roads.

A Met spokesman said: "Al-though the Metropolitan

portant issues." Mike Bennett, spokesman for the London branch of the Police Federation, said: "I would condemn any police oflicer who acts discriminatorily against any member of the public, but this will make the job harder rather than easier. I would hate to see the

this appeal, the case raises very important issues relat-ing to the carrying out of police duties. The commissioner reaffirms his resolve to provide a police service which operates in a non-dis-criminatory manner, but is concerned that this judgment obscures many of these im-

day when we treat black people better than any other member of the public simply to protect ourselves from civil

Scotland is "already worry-

ingly low". The Treasury is understood

to believe that the high operat-

ing costs of insurance compa-nies should be reduced to min-

imise the impact on

consumers of a 5 per cent rate

of premium tax.
Insurance industry execu-

tives have warned the Trea-sury that higher premium tax

could discourage mortgage

protection insurance and pri-

vice. The Association of Brit-ish Insurers has also pre-

dicted that a higher rate of premium tax on motor insur-

ance could mean more unin-

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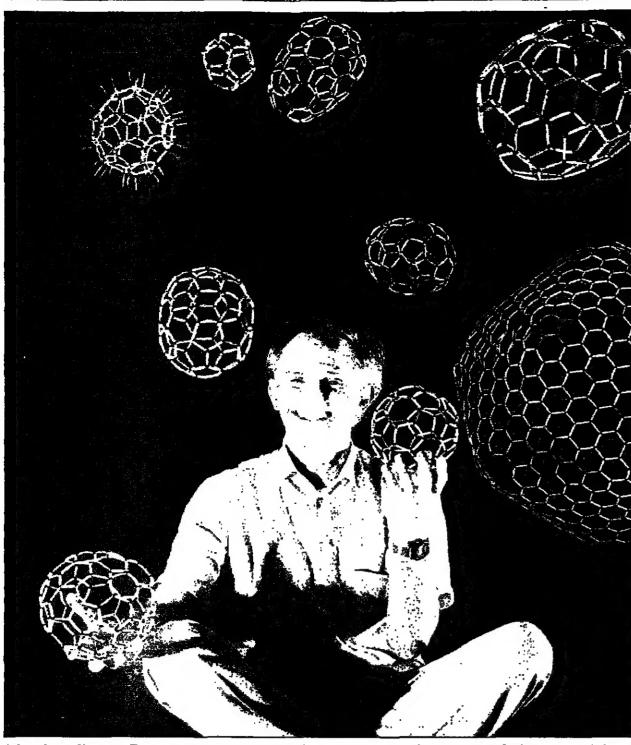
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g the Tory foot soldiers the stall creating the biggest as the Private Hearing Aid Dispensing display, which ited a long line of delegates, taking advantage of rence week to get a free hearing check. hite at Bournemouth	easy to arrange for your salary to be assy for all your standing orders and dire be transferred to your account. And it's out more right now. Call us on 0800 2 complete the coupon.
erstory	Now ask yourself a you with the right ba
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BSE expert dashes hopes of beef exports revival

Stephen Bates in Brussels

of restoring beef exports to Europe bebe finally demolished yesterday as one of the world's leading BSE experts told the European Commission It may never be eradicated.

Charles Weissmann of Zürich University called for intensive tests on monkeys lish the causes and find cures for the cattle disease which has devastated the European heef trade. Professor Weissa group of BSE experts at the commission's request for the link between the disease and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in could not be transmitted

The commission was cautions of accepting all the im-plications of his warnings because it might have to fund new scientific laboratories and research.

Franz Fischler, the agricul ture commissioner, said: "It is now necessary that we draft the appropriate protocols for a large project so that it can be put into practice." Prof Weissmann said in Brussels: "I think it is pretty

clear that the disease will di-minish very considerably but whether it will go back to zero or whether there will be a low would venture to predict.

needed to establish that BSE; view the evidence we have so for is sufficiently suggestive of transmission from cattle to man that we should act as though it were true ... we must make an assessment of the risk of transmission and

that requires more informa-

tion on infectivity than is ourrently available."

He added that although there is no evidence that BSE is transmissable through milk, more sensitive tests needed to be developed to make absolutely sure.

Among the research bis committee has called for are experiments to determine mother to calf, work to de early stages of the disease in live animals: studies on whether susceptibility to the disease is inherent in the gen-

The experimental work tion period for the disease in humans CJD can take up to place on monkeys because o their similar genetic make that suggestion as appalling and unacceptable. Government claimed that, al though it had carried out its BSE tests on marmosets there was no reason to a

campaigners Animal Ald said: "BSE is the product of

sume they reacted like

Help us find Diana-Hewitt video hoaxers, pleads Sun

HE SUN made a public plea yesterday for infor-mation to track down hoazers who embroiled the newspaper in the most embarrassing

But as suspicions fell on the Daily Mirror, which revelled of the Sun's gullibility over the fake "Diana-Hewitt" video, its editor, Plers Morehind it. We are not."

Yesterday's Sun carried a prominent front page apology rom editor Stnart Higgins, i which he said he was "deeoly sorry" the paper had been porting to show a half-naked Princess of Wales and James

Highgrove.
It transpired the video was Hedges and recorded by pro-fessional look-alikes as a pilot

Today programme, he said: TV comedy spoof. The Mirror 'It is very convenient the Sun said it discovered the video is trying to insinuate we are was a boax at midday on Tuesday when Mr Morgan took a call from the celebrity publicist Max Clifford, repre-

senting Mr Hedges. Mr Hedges told Mr Clifford his colour video had been copied, turned into black-and-

white and made grainier.
The publicist, who said he had never met Mr Hedges before and had pointed him in the direction of the Mirror, said there were three theories circulating about the hoax.

and others that I am behind the whole thing. That is to be expected, but it is not true.

He thought the most likely explanation was that the tape was copied during editing and Sun for an estimated £100,000.

version of the video on fix The Sun called it "one of the most elaborate houses of

Scientist's just dessert is Nobel prize for chemistry

Sir Harry Kroto had his eye on the ball when he won the chemistry award. writes Tim Radford

HE British scientist who won a Nobel nouncement in Stockholm yesterday because he had

Sir Harry Kroto, a profes sor of chemistry at Sussex University, was one of three to share the £710,000 Nobel award for chemistry for the discovery of buck minsterfullerenes - the third form of carbon, in soccer ball-shaped molecules of 60 atoms each.

Sir Harry, aged 57, from Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, made his discovery in 1985 with his co-winners Robert Curl and Richard Smalley of Rice University, Houston, Texas.

They named the new form of carbon after the architect Buckminster Fuller. designer of the geodesic dome, which the molecule resembles.

Sir Harry had been told that he might be a winner but gave up waiting 15 minutes before the announce ment. "I really thought it wasn't on. Then I went for lunch. Three quarters of an hour later, I discovered it had been up. It was a bit of

The discovery has opened new fields for chemistry and materials science. Sir Harry had originally worked with a colleague at Sussex on long chains of



Buckminsterfullerene open new science fields

carbon, and this led him to radioastronomy in Canada. which ended in the discovery of unusual carbon molecules in space.

This led to experiments at Rice University with Rick Smalley and Bob Curl which showed they could form in carbon stars, "and all hell has broken loose ever since," he said. Buckminsterfullerenes had been proposed in 1966 — as a joke, by Dr David Jones of Newcastle, who for many years wrote The Guardian's Daedalus column.

"What David Jones had done was to say maybe you could stimulate the formation of these things. But they formed spontaneously: that was the biggest sur-prise of all."

Fullerenes or buckyballs could be the basis of a sci-

'Why should there be a third form of carbon to dia which are quite different from anything before."

Some of the prize money

Sir Harry is a backer of the Vega Science Trust which is working to put more science on television. with five new programmes to be screened on BBC2

prize since 1982. "The Government should be very wary of assuming that fundamental science is

said. "The experiments were done at Rice University. They could not have been

omy.
"So my feeling is this is an interdisciplinary, inter-national thing: we have the innovative people, but I don't think that they are going to be easily able to do

ntific revolution elongated forms are 200 times stronger than steel out no one yet has a use for

Sir Harry said. "We are talking about major shifts in our understanding of nature. We have added a mond and graphite. There are huge areas of organic chemistry now opened up

will go to the public under standing of science.

He is the first Briton to win a Nobel chemistry

healthy because of this," he

done in the UK at the time.' Nor could the radioastron

US scientists — David

Lee, Douglas Osheroff and Robert Richardson — won the 1996 Nobel physics prize for the discovery of "superfluidity in helium-8" at Cornell University, New York more than 20 years

Bruton says IRA is using Nazi tactics

it has dictated to everyone tics of the National Socialists and Fascists during the 1920s

lence if it gets the terms that

The Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew said multi-party talks would continue despite the bombing without Sinn Fein. "They (the

IRA] doubtless think this is going to deflect the British Government and the people of Northern Ireland, and it's not. "Nobody is going to sit down and face people who are threatening, by implication, to get their friends to use bombs," Sir Patrick said. Detective Chiaf Superinten-

at Stormont commenced in dent Derek Martindale gave details of three cars used in cannot be hostage to tactical the attack as well as a de-

movement that is only willing | scription of one of the IRA | ing the first bomb to go off to give up the option of vio- | team | involved | in | its | was gold coloured and was The man, who police be-

lieve was heavily disguised, is described as aged around 40 with a black beard, dark hair and dark-rimmed glasses. He paid £1,800 cash for a Volkswagen Passat at an auction near Belfast two weeks before

the explosions. The Passat was used as getaway vehicle, police be-lieve, and was driven into the base before ferrying the bombers away shortly before the devices, both made of between 600 and 700 lbs of explosives, went off. It was found burning in the republican Poleglass estate in west Belfast

at 4.30pm on Monday. The two cars used to carry the bombs were Volvo estates, which were bought for £5,000 each in cash. The car contain-

sold in Lisburn — where the Army headquarters is located by a garage owner.

and was bought through a newspaper advertisement on Officers believe that the bombers would have carried out several "dummy runs" refore the attack, raising seri ous concerns about the

Army's security procedures Up to 190 RUC officers are involved in the investigation to track the gang whose Eight of the victims are still

in hospital. The first bomb went off in the car park. The second exploded 100 yards away outside the medical centre, and Mr



Photofit image of heavily disguised IRA bomber

those injured in the first explosion were also hurt in Martindale said that some of the second, 15 minutes later.

Parents light 17 candles for Dunblane victims

Erlend Clouston on a yesterday's moving farewell from a grieving Scottish community

OHN Bruton, the Irish

🕶 prime minister, yesterday

compared the IRA to the Nazis, accusing them of a

"cynical betrayal" of the

His comments came as

police investigating Monday's double bombing of the Army headquarters in Northern Ire-

land, which left two people

critically injured, said the

IRA had penetrated security

The bombing could have

been planned for at least four

months, before all-party talks

Addressing the Dail, Mr

Bruton said: "The Irish state

manoeuvres by a violent

June, officers said.

peace process.

EVENTEEN candles were lit in Dunblane ca-thedral yesterday as the community formally wound

up the most bitter phase of its struggle to recover from the massacre in March in a moving 40-minute memorial service around the theme 'into light', the

reaved parents publicly ac-knowledged that life had to go The candle-lighting ritual was the touching centrepiece of a service which was attended by Prince Charles, Scottish Secretary Michael Forsyth and his shadow.

George Robertson. While a

distant piper played a Lament for the Children, a string of

companied by siblings of the | deserted streets to three over-murdered pupils, carried a flow churches. Hamilton's killing spree is ex-flame on a central candle to | There was also a strong inan arc of smaller, sister candles each embossed with

Gwenne Mayor, the teacher who died alongside half her class 210 days earlier, was remembered with two sen-tences from Psalm 32: "I will teach you and guide you in the way you should go. I will counsel you and watch over

The parents, who still meet weekly, appeared to cope remarkably well with the stress of an occasion that was being beamed live to the nation's television screens. They had requested a minimum of solemnity yesterday and many of them pointedly filed into the medieval cathe dral in floral ties and pastelshaded shoes.

Chris de Burgh, the pop singer who held a fund-rais ing concert for the town, arrived in a calf-length leather coat. Prince Charles adopted Lovat-green jacket and kilt. Five local ministers con-ducted the ecumenical sersombre adults, sometimes ac- | vice, which was relayed down

ternational element: the open-

ing organ music had been specially written by an Azerbaijani composer, and television presenter Lorraine Kelly delivered a prose poem written by an American.

"Without your child and those that have gone before, there would be no children in heaven," Ms Kelly, her voice wavering slightly, read from the pulpit.
"Playing where they never tan loop on their jacket lapels.

the service came to promoting the parents' anti-handguns agenda came halfway through the 15-minute sermon delivered by the Very Rev James Whyte.

"All of us who share the horror must make our journey out of that horror into a safer, more civilised society. he told the congregation of 600, many of whom carried the distinctive Dunblane tar-

Next door, oddly, was a video store in

tire, your child is safe and happy."
References to the brutal cir-

cumstances of the children's deaths were restricted to Canon Basil O'Sullivan's final prayer for the professional-ism of "police, doctors and paramedics". Similarly, there was no reference to Lord Cul-

which the boxes on display showed mean-eyed men flourishing firearms.

> clearly aimed directly at the bereaved families, mixed con-solation with encouragement Developing the candle imag he said children gave off "a bright, warm light"; when their mothers and fathers were reunited with them in heaven "they may be wiser

and more serene than you can have imagined," he assured Echoing the families' desire

to draw a line of sorts under the events of March 13, he urged them not to be absorbed by their loss, warning: We must never give our children the impression that to be valued a child must be dead." in an imaginative touch, the Order of Service also doubled up as a flicker-book that showed the sun rising or falling through the heavens, de-pending on which way it was

Prince Charles spent some time after the service speaking to parents. Most of them. are still assigned specialist social workers.

The town, too, is still suffering: an official pamphlet, posted in a high street window yesterday urged tourists to respect residents' "grief and privacy ... by not asking them to provide details of the

tragedy". Next door, oddly, was a video store in which over a play showed mean-eyed men flourishing firearms.

Campaign to reverse Labour schools policy

John Carvel

ACAMPAIGN to change Labour policy on private education is being launched by supporters of the independent schools with a full-page advertisement in today's Guardian featuring an artist's entation of a two-faced Harriet Harman, the party's social security spokeswoman. It is accompanied by con-trasting quotes from Ms Harman, opposing selection and

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Hill House Hammond

make the proper choice for private sector. But Isls said their children's education. the schools were not contribthe schools were not contrib-"We agree with the Harriet Harman on the right," It says. uting to political activity.
"At New Labour's confer-The advertisement is the ence Tony Blair said he wants first shot by an association of parents called the Friends of

The name of the organisa tion does not appear on the advertisement, on page 11 of address and phone numbers of the Independent Schools In-

every child to be educated at a State School. There's nothing Independent Schools, which independent schools would says it plans to run a camlike more than to keep polipaign up to polling day. tics out of education. Unfortunately some politicians won't leave us alone," says the ad, timed to coincide with the

today's paper, which gives the education debate today at the Conservative conference. Labour was threatening to take away the charitable status of independent schools, formation Service (Isis), a supporting parents' right to body largely supported by the and both Labour and the Lib eral Democrats would abolish the assisted places scheme **HOUSE INSURANCE**

children from low-income families to attend more than 400 independent schools. "We are not asking you to change your vote. We're asking you to help us make New Labour and the Lib Dems reconsider their policies."

A Labour spokesman said: "We have been discussing with the independent schools how they could work in partnership with local state schools to make a real contribution to their communities." Such arrangements could ensure they continued to de-serve charitable status.

Supermarkets swallow up corner shops' food trade as shoppers vote on price

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

ARGE supermarket chains are driving the cor-ner shop to the wall so fast that non-supermarket spending on some food items now barely registers in the Government's annual survey of household expenditure, pub-

lished today. Big supermarkets are outselling other shops in every measured category of food and non-alcoholic drink except fresh milk, where the definition of other outlets includes milk rounds. As recently as 1987, the Family Expenditure Survey

showed that smaller shops still enjoyed the lion's share

as bread, potatoes, fresh | and tinned meats, 4p on marmeat, eggs. fresh fruit and confectionery. Sales of fresh fish were almost three times as great as in large supermarkets.

Today's survey, for 1995-98, shows that the large chains are fast outstripping other Average weekly household

spending on fresh fruit was El.37 at large supermarkets last year, compared to £1.28 the year before, while the average spent on fresh fruit at smaller shops fell over the 12 months from 67p to 58p. Similarly, spending on confectionery at large supermarkets rose from 61p to 80p, while it fell at smaller shops.

Smaller shops are now reg istering average spending of of the market for items such as little as 2p a week on pasta

garine and soups and 5p on butter and sugar.

On recent trends, big supermarkets will soon be out-selling smaller shops and door-todoor deliveries even on fresh milk. Supermarket milk sales averaged 42p a household a week in 1987, 86p in 1994-95 and 98p in 1995-96. Other milk sales averaged £1.79 in 1987. £1.63 in 1994-95 and £1.48 in 1995-96. The expenditure survey is conducted by the Office for National Statistics and based on diaries and questionnaires completed by members of 6,797 households. Those who took part in the

centive payment". Family Spending; HMSO; £35.95

survey were given a £5

Quotations bible gives soundbites a short shelf life

MANY sayings of the current "soundbite" era in public life are unlikely to last in the English language longer than a few years, according to the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. The revised edition has a

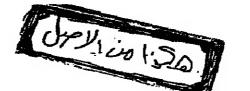
new section, Sayings Of The 90s, for highly publicised remarks likely to be forgotten when later editions come out. These include Eric Cantona's jibe about seaguils Princess Diana's self-appoint ment as "a queen in people's hearts", John Major's "back to basics," Norman Lamont's green shoots of recovery and Tony Blair's "the art of leadership is saying no".

Other nineties utterances

include BR's "wrong kind of snow" and Mrs Thatcher's pointed letter to her resigning minister Norman Fowler, " understand your wish to be able to spend more time with your family'.
Elizabeth Knowles, the dic-

tionary's managing editor, said yesterday that Mrs Thatcher's phrase was "already in very wide ironical use about resigning politicians". However, Cantona's fibe was less likely to survive than Denis Compton's confession to Brian Lara, "I couldn't bat for the length of time required to score to 500. I'd get bored and fall over."

Ms Knowles said the new ection was devised so that ephemeral quotations could be dropped without resetting the main dictionary.



Thursday October 10 14

The interior

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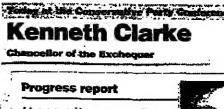
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March Carles

Cause of





taste. Yet he is the Cabinet's pivosal pre-election figure – unless John Major takes anti-Clarkeites' advice (he won't) and replaces him with tax-cutter Peter Lilley before Budget Day, November

26. Always a bruiser in the Denis Healey league, Clarke has not brimme with the Euro-scaptic wind as others, with the Euro-sceptic wind as others, e.g. Malcolm Rithand, have done. Quire the reverse. Since Douglas Hurd's 1995 retirement left him as Public Enemy No 1 to the Tory Right and their Fleet St atties, he has become even more outspoke When John Major was under pressure to concede a single current reterentum this spring – the latest satism's slicing demand from the sceptics – the Chancellor came close to resignation. He believes to speaking out is the only way to maintain the Cabinet's agreed rapromise to keep options open on Europe. Major's warm praise of y friend Ken' on TV last weekend does not disguise his imitation at inke's provocations, even though many elleged gattes are dia-concocted. Clarke has managed macro-economic decisions,

media-concocted. Clarks has managed macro-economic decisions, notably interest rates, well, flying by the seat of his pants. But the tax and-debt hole remains a big one for whoever wins the election, and inflation may be lurking. Meanwhile the "feel-good tactor" has returned, but ministers do not get the credit – the legacy of the sterling flasco and the Lamont-Clarke tax rises? Clarke has two Budget choices: the responsible, cautious one with no unjustified the conditions are at the legacy of the sterling flasco as att which he conditions. tax cuts (i.e. none at all) which he promises, and a cut-andrun Budget. The one would save his reputation and (fixe his friend. Roy Jenkins) lose the election. The other just might save the Tories.

Today's periormance

His primary aim is to escape from the conference hell alive and with his trousers on. Many of his audience see him as the amogant, effict obstact to a fifth Tory term. Last year he survived with a robust speech which copy hinted at tax cuts. This time such hints may upset jiftery financial markets. But he will resist the temptation to good them on Europe.

Prospects

Objectively grim. The new intake of Tory MPs – many of them aggressive, know-nothing young Thatcherites – are expected to make Bill Cash look like a Euro-moderate. But Clarke has done every big job benches. Or, if he helps Major win and becomes a hero, he could be

- Detence (Michael Positio)
- Conomy (Kenneth Clarke) D Education and Employment (Giller Shackard)
- Address to Conference (Michael Heseltine)

Ministers get just desserts

Bournemouth Walter sweeney, sitting precariously on the smallest Tory monetary union would not be ridden over roughshod. He

AVING a Cabinet mina daunting occasion, wisely observes Fiona Hodgson in her introduction to a delightful new publication launched

ister's own. In his Q & A session, Mr Major argued that here yesterday.
Cabinet Puddings — "the recipe book that reveals the Europe was changing and would continue to change. 'Our concern and our deterdesserts that Ministers Most Desire" — is a fund-raising mination is to make sure that it changes in a way that is acceptable to the United Kingeffort devised by Mrs Hodgdom and not damaging to the United Kingdom." son, whose husband Robin is chairman of the National The EU's priority should not be new political institu-tions but to draw in the for-Union of Conservative Associations Among the delights we find John Major's mer Soviet block states. As for the single currency, if it "goes ahead, it will have an impact in one way or another

recipe for chocolate brandy whip (geddit?).

The PM admits that it may not do much for his waistline, something that was begin. ning to be evident from his shirtsleeve performance

yesterday. Lord Archer confesses a de Chocolat "only allowed to be eaten when my wife is not around", while Michael Portillo opts for a hunk of Best-

John Redwood, needless to so-called convergence criteria say, goes for fresh fruit salad right. That was why Britain "made with English Cox's, not French Golden Deliclous", while Treasury Economic Secretary Angela because it reminds me of a

> But not before reminding visitors to the conference in search of a cookbook more appropriate to the political mood to seek out a volume by the ever-popular Clare Latimer. Its title? The Comfort Food Cookbook.

majority at Westminster (he holds Vale of Glamorgan by a mere 19) seems to know something the rest of us have missed. Writing in the confer-ence issue of the House Magazine, Sweeney announces: 'Ken Clarke as Chancellor laid the foundations for Britain to be the most succe economy in Europe. I know that John Redwood will not vative to dinner can be let us down in carrying that work forward over the com-

ing months and years." SPEAKING of Ken Clarke (Oranges in Syrup), and assuming that he is still Chancellor, he should also note an interview with Peter Lilley (Treacle Tart) in the Young Conservatives' mag. Campaigner. Would you like the job of Chancellor, the interviewer asks. "It has always been my longer-term ambition to be Chancellor of the Exchequer," replies Lilley. "I have never concealed that, least of

OT only does John Gummer fail to declare himself in the great pudding debate, but he also began his conference speech thing for a certain Marquise yesterday with the words: de Chocolat "only allowed to "This is a speech which will

all from Kenneth Clarke."

ORTHERN Ireland min-ister, Michael Ancram, is the latest victim of the Today programme's strong-arm methods at Bournemouth. Following the foiled kidnap attempt on Knight chooses zabaglione Stephen Dorrell (Fruit Salad because it reminds me of a with Crème Fraiche and Brulée Top) on Monday, Today heavies grabbed Ancram for a romance with a very roman-tic and dishy student". At which point, I draw a tasteful 7.10am interview on the Lisburn bombing. Straight into this studio, minister, he was told, as the door locked be-hind him. Through the wall Ancram listens helplessly as the voice of Jim Naughtie to have Michael up." he hasn't turned up." Martin Kettle

Blair has captured public

THE Defence Secretary.

Michael Portillo, yesterday acknowledged that Tony
Blair had effectively captured

the popular mood. Speaking at a conference

public opinion.
"For the moment he has developed to a high degree the skill of finding out what people want to hear, then saying it," he said.

Although he strongly attacked Mr Blair, accusing way used to advertise deter-him of adopting "a sort of gent meaning improved", Conservative language by way of disguise", his words were a tacit acknowledgement of the difficulties that worthy. Dangerous. That's

consequences if the Labour leader were ever elected prime minister. "Mr Blair has made a

Mr Portillo warned of the

career of equivocation and and ambiguity, and steers by the compass of the focus group and the opinion poll to a horizon more distant than the general election," he said. "But a Labour government

would usher in a new phase of his career: the implementation of New Labour's policies. He has portrayed 'new' in the

"But 'new' means something else. Untried. Untrust-



John Major retrieving his jacket after conducting an informal question and answer session with party chairman Brian Mawhinney and delegates

expression of virtue. Marga-ret Thatcher got the British

budget rebate by being pre-pared to be isolated." Like most cabinet members

this week he emphasised Brit-ain's global role and tradi-tions. "But we are part of

Europe. No one can ignore the facts of geography. Our fate is intertwined with

theirs." The national interest would be seriously damaged

But the fears of those call-ing for an immediate decision

on European economic and

contrasted the Tory commitment to a referendum if necessary with Labour's refusal

"The debate is not about

whether we should be in or

out of Europe. The debate is about what kind of European

The crucial intervention,

however, was the Prime Min-

way, upon every nation in the

European Union whether or not that particular country is

in the single currency."
But if it failed it would

make the 1992-93 collapse of

the old exchange rate mecha-

nism look like a "teddy bears" picnic". Most EU members would not be eligible to join

to give such an assurance.

by "premature" decisions.

Major sidelines sceptics

OHN Major and Malcolm Rifkind yester-day joined forces to cajole a docile Tory conference into ac-the cabinet's waitand-see policy for the single European currency — despite the strong groundswell of hostility among activists at

in contrast to the packed and enthusiastic meetings on the frings — attended by up to 1,000 predominantly Euro-sceptical representatives the conference debate on Europe was as tightly-controlled as Labour's a week ago when key sceptics like Peter Shore were not allowed to

No senior Tory sceptic sur-Secretary's measured defence of the Cabinet's compromise line. Nor did a single speaker urge the Prime Minister face-to-face to reject British mem-bership of the euro this side of 2002 or — the latest scep-tics' position — "in the first wave" in 1999 when he did an informal question-and-answer session in his

"This is an issue, which if it were to go wrong, could crack wide open the European Union as we have seen it build up over the last 25 years. And if it cracked it open then it would impact on this country as well, so we need to make sure in the national interest that we have Britain's voice in this

To reinforce the unity theme — which reflects a pragmatic consensus between the Cabinet's pro-European majority and the sceptics' grassroots strength -Stephen Dorrell, the moderate Health Secretary, made a speech on the conference fringe in which "he called on

Stating their cases on either side of the euro divide



48 6 A

"This is an issue, which if it were to go wrong, could crack wide open the European Union as we have een it build up over the last

JOHN MAJOR

I could earn easy applause by immediately ruling out Britain's membership of the single currency (applause). If I did that, and I then had no British voice in this great lehate that will affect us, what will I say to the British nation when they say to me 'Prime Minister, how can you protect or advance our position if you have unilaterally ruled yourself out of the discussions upon something that will affect us



"I know that some of you would like us to take a decision now to rule in or participation in a single currency. I respect these

I want to share with you the reasoning why the Prime Minister and the Cahinet believe that a final decision at this moment would be unwise. A single currency first of all may never happen, may not happen for several years, cannot happen before 1999. The nation therefore loses nothing by deferring a damage our interests if we out a single currency."

to give Mr Rifkind a generous standing ovation after his



'Who's going to [fight battles] for us if we look as if we view our closest partners with distrust pordering upon contempt? the Eurosceptic press and it's deadly for the real nterests of this country.

NORMAN LAMONT

"There is no point in being

at the heart of Europe if the

heart is diseased . . . Europe

has its own passport, its own flag, its own foreign policy. If that is not political integration towards

statehood, I don't know

This repulsive doctrine is the complete opposite of what Conservatives

believe. It is utterly craven to say that we should go along with Europe because otherwise we would be left out. That isn't a policy.

Brussels is not at the heart

of Europe and never will be.

The reason is blindingly

obvious. You only have to

that's capitulation . .

look at the map.

what is,

But the sceptics disagree... their conclusion: we should deliver an ultimatum to our EU partners: 'Accept the Europe which we want or we'll leave . . .' Their argument is riddled

with holes. Who on earth would ever agree to that? We are not going down the road to a United States of Europe. What is on the agenda is not all unpalatable to Britain."

LEON BRITTAN

nounced moves to widen the peers, believe could save the down the middle on Europe", party from defeat next spring. but the reality of an imministitutions. On counter-charges that but the reality of an imministitutions. but the reality of an immi-nent election inhibited such instinctive rebels as Lord

are more concerned to be popfringe in which "he called on Britain to take on all comers in its fight to deliver its vision for the EU and design and the conference managed to duck the one ists, and leading MPs and the conference from the floor, as he almost did three years he will never be isolated in the conference from the floor, as he almost did three years he will never be isolated in the conference from the floor, as he almost did three years he will never be isolated in the conference from the floor, as he almost did three years he will never be isolated in the conference from the floor, as he almost did three years he will never be isolated in the conference from the floor. In the conference from the floor, as he almost did three years he will never be isolated in the conference from the floor. In the conference from the floor, as he almost did three years he will never be isolated in the conference from the floor. In the negotiation shaping the single currency—rather than get "easy ago. Instead ministers piled to the conference from the floor. In the negotiation is the conference from the floor. In the negotiation is the conference from the floor. In the negotiation which many activities the conference from the floor. In the negotiation is the conference from the floor. In the negotiation is the conference from the floor. In the negotiation is the conference from the floor. In the negotiation is the conference from the floor. In the negotiation is the conference from the floor. In the negotiation is the conference from the floor. In the negotiation is the conference from the floor. In the negotiation is the conference from the floor. In the negotiation is the conference from the floor. In the negotiation is the conference from the floor. In the negotiation is the conference from the floor. In the negotiation is the conference from the floor. In the negotiation is the conference from the floor. In the negotiation is the conference from the floor. In the negotiation is the conference from the floor. In the negotiation is the negotia

Federalism by stealth warning from Lamont

tic called for "more honesty" in the debate over Europe as he clashed with the fiercely Europe has its own passport, pro-European former Cabinet its own flag, its own foreign minister, Sir Leon Brittan -. now vice-president of the European Commission — at a bood, I don't know what is." Guardian debate on whether Britain should be at the heart relationship with Europe was ing in a dire a repulsive doctrine which want to go in."

favour of a single currency, he is backing John Major's

Mr Lamont stopped short of advocating that Britain should withdraw from the EU, but drew strong support from the many Eurosceptics in the audience as he set out

cal integration towards state-

Sir Leon urged Tories to pull together on the single currency, and said that "if we can't be united on this, we where the buck stops."

eral Europe".

Being at the heart of Europe did not mean "passively accepting everything

by Brussels, and the "com-plete farce" of subsidiarity which was now a one-way street. 'The problem is that Europe never repatriates power. Once it's there, it's

the heart is diseased. And we session in which he took cannot be at the heart of questions from the floor on Europe because Europe is goissues that ranged across ting better.

That would be the control of Moves towards a closer

Relaxed Major comes up with the right answers

Even Labour admitted that it was a slick performance. Ewen MacAskill reports

hall.

He told an aide before-

press to be cynical about the exercise, that they would think all the ques-To thunderous applause, he said: "There is no point in being at the heart of Europe if to it during the hour-long

orchestrated.

in delivering speeches, now he sounded relaxed. He told an anecdote about going for walk with Boris Yeltsin during a visit to Chequers, and he persuaded Mr Yeltsin without too much trouble to drop into the local. It was closed. A Russian

security man knocked on the door and shouted: "It is the President of Russia." A tions had been selected in the Kaiser." The conference liked it and the jour-nalists, some of whom had heard it half a dozen times, agreed his delivery was get-

union power, gun control good point to stop. Dr Ma- year.

whinney did the Prime Minister no favours by tak-ing more questions, finishing with one on the impact of BSE on farmers. But Mr Major had done enough. He was given a standing ovation that was

more genuine and warmer than the one that normally follows his end-of-the week platform, determinedly ca-sual. Stilted and awkward When it was over, an aide reported back that the

mood among the journalists had been generally favourable. Even the Labour Party privately ac-knowledged later that it had been a smooth performance. The object of the exercise

apart from playing to Mr Major's strength, was not not have harmed him.

That would have been a he would do it again next

Norman Lamont, claimed the Tories "made a mistake" in passing the Single European Act which formally took British into the single market, as he his concerns about the dancondemned moves towards gers of "federalism by closer integration with stealth".

The self-declared Euroscep-

By avoiding a head-on clash

don't deserve to win the gen-eral election".

Aithough he is strongly in

wait and see approach.

In his only appearance on
the fringe to discuss Europe.

Europe as "a repulsive Passing the Single European Act in 1986 was a mistake "The idea that we are winning the argument on political union is not right. policy ... if that is not politi-

Sir Leon said that leaving the EU would be "an eco-nomic, political and strategic disaster for Britain", and denied that there was any "inexorable tide leading to a fed-

that our European partners want, or every new proposal from Brussels". Mr Lamont was strongly

critical of the power assumed gone there forever."

IOHN Major visited an | and BSE. Faced with one empty Bournemouth conference hall late on Tuesday night. Along with the party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, and other aides, he stood on the plat-form, getting a feel of the

According to officials, that was the extent of his rehearsal for the big Conservative conference innovation, the Prime Minis-ter's question-and-answer

hand that he expected the

complicated question, he said that that proved the exercise had not been Jacket off, he paced the

so much to impress those in call came back: "And I'm the hall but television viewers, the voters, those who normally find the people who attend Tory conferences a turn-off. It would

At the end, Mr Major said

mood, confesses Portillo

fringe meeting, he said the Labour leader had become adept at gauging the state of

'biological'.

Russian military not planning mutiny, analysts say

Minister confronts disgruntled forces

David Fairhall Defence Correspondent

HE Russian defence minister flies into Vladivostok today to crisis in his demoralised. often unpaid, armed forces which could end in widespread disintegration, if not outright mutiny.

Vladivostok, home of the former Soviet Pacific Fleet. was the scene last month of a one-day strike and blockade by dockyard workers, which will be repeated on a wider national scale at the end of the month. Meanwhile crime is reportedly on the increase among servicemen, including senior officers, and draft dog-

Independent confirmation of the crisis facing the newly appointed minister. General Igor Rodionov — whose predecessor. General Pavel Grachev, was accused of condoning computation and accepting ing corruption and accepting bribes - came yesterday from the authoritative London-based International Insti-

tute for Strategic Studies.
"The armed forces are vot-

Chris Nuttail in Ankara

EURKEY plans to spend £98.5 billion over the next 30 years on defence

- roughly double its current

expenditure on what is al-ready the second largest mili-

An official said yesterday that the government would

spend about £3.2 billion each

year up to 2030 for projects to modernise land, sea and air

"Turkey is already spending about £1.6 billion to £1.9 billion every year for de-

fence and we are targeting to

double appropriations allo-

cated to the defence industry

through increases in the de-fence industry fund and the

Land forces would receive 750 helicopters, 3,000 tanks

and 48,000 other vehicles. The navy's share would include 14 frigates, nine submarines and

35 amphibious landing boats.

budget," he said.

tary force in Nato.

moeller, presenting the latest edition of the institute's Military Balance, "Troops are selling their weapons."

But the institute does not believe Russian forces are on confront a growing the brink of mutiny, as sug-in his demoralised. gested recently by President Boris Yeltsin's security chief. General Alexander Lebed. "It's an extremely serious problem but there are no signs that troops will drive into the Kremlin in tanks,"

Ms Gottemoeller said. Gen Lebed's warning, she argued, should be seen in the context of disagreement be-tween the defence and finance ministries over the size of next year's military budget — which the institute calculates has fallen by 45 per cent in real terms since 1992.

Gen Lebed left Nato headquarters in Brussels yester-day after his first visit to the West, having impressed officials with his approach to the contentious issue of Nato's expansion into eastern Europe. "Our feeling was that here we had a man with whom you could negotiate," said one official.

in response to lobbying by Gen Lebed and Gen Rodionov,

weapons systems. The foreign minister, Tansu Ciller, said after a meeting with the Turk-

Turks up arms budget

ish General Staff that the pro-

gramme would involve for-eign partnerships and the

private sector.

One aim is to expand the defence industry in Turkey.

which currently meets only 20 per cent of the armed

A strong military force has

always been seen as essential

to meet potential threats on

Turkey's borders. It has had difficult relations over the

years with Russia and Iran to

the east, Syria and Iraq to the south and Bulgaria and

Greece to the west.

The airforce could expect 640 exercises in the southern a car planes and 440 air defence Aegean between Greece and Iraq.

deputy director Rose Gotte | President Yeltsin has promised to make military reforms a priority. Earlier this week. the prime minister. Viktor Chernomyrdin, proposed a new tax to help the army. He has also promised to revise its draft 1997 budget.

Russian troops complain of being underfed, poorly clothed, and unpaid for

months at a time.

The collapse of morale has been aggravated by the hu-miliations of the Chechenia campaign, in which 30,000 people are estimated to have died in efforts to gain control of the province. "The best the Russian armed forces can now do is to contain rebel military action ... until a longer term political solution is found," the institute says.

The annual value of the

worldwide arms trade has stabilised at about £20 billion — less than half the 1980s average — according to the insti-tute. Most of the reduction oc-curred in former Soviet and Warsaw Pact markets. The United States has emerged as the dominant supplier, exporting arms valued at £10 billion a year, followed by Britain, France and Russia

50 air space violations since the exercises started on Mon-

day. Turkey responded that

the exercises were themselves a provocation likely to in-

Britain's special envoy to Cyprus, Sir David Hannay,

said before attending meet-

ings in Ankara yesterday that

it was "worrying that both sides on the island continue

Meanwhile on the eastern

flank, a Turkish offensive

against Kurdish separatist fighters has spilled over into

crease tensions.

an arms race'



Greece to the west.

Meanwhile, the latest Aegean brushfire was extinguished yesterday when Athens returned the Turkish pilot of an F-16 jet. It crashed after being intercepted by Greek fighters on Tuesday. His co-pilot is still missing. The incident happened on the last day of joint military exercises in the southern Aegean between Greece and Striking Serbian taxi drivers mass in central Belgrade yesterday, demanding tax cuts

Opera's opening chorus marred by disharmony

The Teatro Real, after a pricey revamp, prepares to face its public: Adela Gooch in Madrid reports

HANDELIERS crashing to the floor, an ar-chitect slumping to his death on stage, huge cost overrous and bitter political infighting — Ma-drid's revamped Royal Opera house, due to open next year as one of the largest in Europe, has been haunted by such phantoms since the project began.

Even the work chosen for the project began.

the première has caused controversy. It was to have been Wagner's Parsifal, with Placido Domingo in the star role. But the con-servative government decided a home-grown composer was more appropriate and, after sacking the opera director appointed by the former socialist administration, opted for Manuel de Falla's

La Vida Breve instead, with Parsifal to follow. As well as an opera house, the Teatro Real has been a gunpowder store, a barracks, the lower house of parliament and a dance

The revamp was one of many grandiose projects designed to celebrate 1992

the anniversary of the discovery of America.

The difficulties soon

began to mirror those of the original construction. which lasted more than 30 years and was hampered by a chronic shortage of funds. The opera house was opened in 1850, patronised by Queen Isabella II, her-

self something of an opera buffa heroine: her corsets were once found on the floor of the royal box. After frequent closures, the building was turned into a concert hall in 1965.

The projected cost of returning it to its original use was first put at 5,000 million pesetas (£25 million). Four times that amount has been spent. In 1992, one of the architects had a heart attack and died while showing a group of journalists around. Last year the cen-

tral hall's crystal chandelier smashed to the ground.
Equally spectacular have been the political battles between conservatives and

The new government is committed to completing the restoration, although it moved swiftly to fire the old board and appoint its own. The opening has been set for October 18, 1997. The artistic director, Ste-

phane Lissner, who survived the purge, announced ambitious plans this week. He hopes the opera house will attract singers with ar-tistic prestige rather than millionaire payments. No one will receive more than 3 million pesetes for a performance. Mr Lissner. largely responsible for making a success of the Châtelet opera house in Paris, hopes the top Span-ish stars — Domingo, Mont-serrat Caballé, José Car-reras and Aifredo Kraus will perform.

The soprano Teresa Berganza will run opera studios to train new Span-

It was patronised by Queen isabella whose corsets were once found on the floor of the royal box

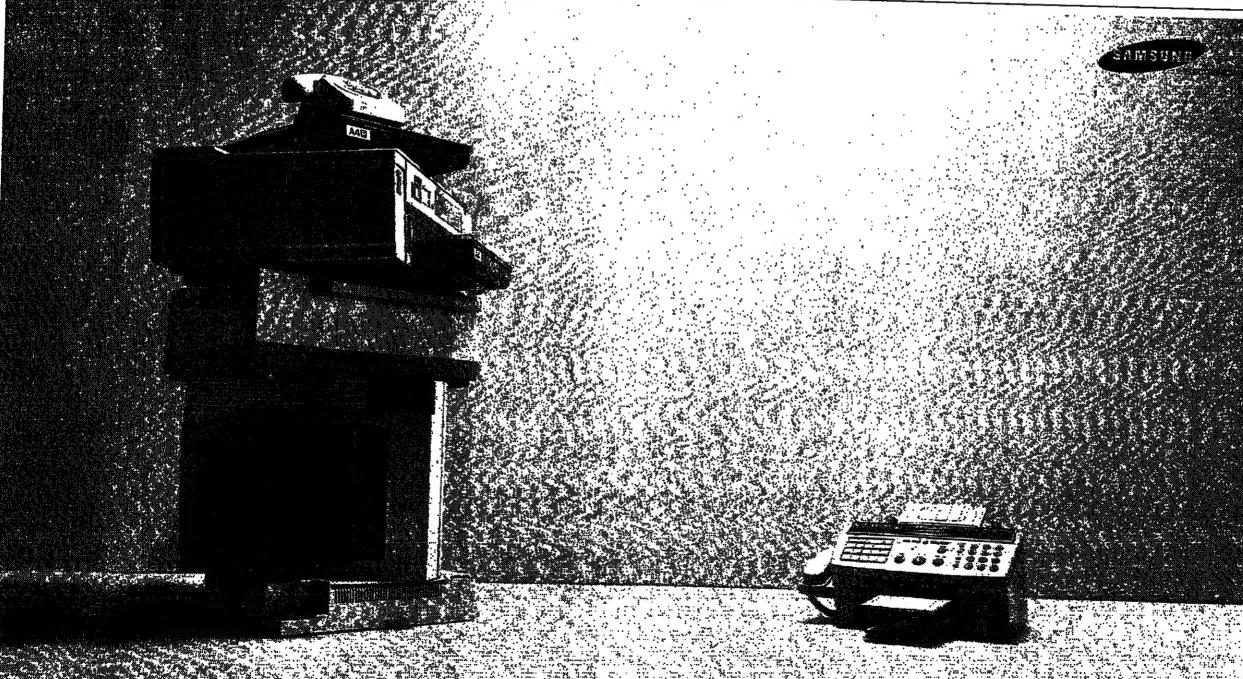
ish singers. Mr Lissner also plans to organise late night performances aimed at young people and to pro-mote Spain's operetta

genre, the zarzuela.

Gloomy critics point out that, unlike Barcelona, Madrid has little operatic tradition. The Barcelona Liceu burned down but is being rebuilt and will provide stiff competition. stiff competition.

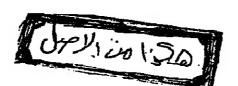
Budget austerity will threaten subsidies, and the opening may be marred by building work in the square behind the opera

Supporters of the opera house argue that the tively cheap and that state-of-the-art installations will attract international stars. Others mutter that they would not be surprised to see flamenco singers performing there.



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A bus ride to brotherhood

Gore supporters quietly await the new millennium



Spike Lee, director of Get On The Bus, the first of a wave of black pride movies. It was made wholly with black money

Spike Lee's film about last year's Million Man March is challenging negative stereotypes of black males. Jonathan Freedland in Washington reports

rector Spike Lee, actor Wesley Snipes, lawyer Johnnie Cochran and dozens of black celebrities have joined forces to celebrate an event hailed as a landmark in African-Ameri-

can history with a film. Get On The Bus follows 12 black men as they trek from Los Angeles to Washington DC. It will open on October 16, the first anniversary of the sands of black men converged on the capital for the largest demonstration in US history.

Black commentators are lauding the film as a breakthrough which shatters Hollywood stereotypes of black males as killers and gangsters. The 12 fictional march ers include a father anxious to bond with his teenage son, a gay couple, a cop sick of seeing blacks kill each other and a devout Muslim. "It's a com-

The marchers set out as days and thousands of miles later as brothers", the film's promoters say. With 75 per cent of the action confined to the inside of the bus, publiclats promise an intense movie — a "black Twelve Angry Men".

The film is generating considerable pride, as the entire \$2.4 million (£1.5 million) bud-

HE Million Man black male entrepreneurs.

March is heading Among the 15 investors — who gave \$100,000 or \$200,000 who gave \$100,000 or \$200,000 each - were Snipes, fellow actors Danny Glover and Will Smith, basketball star Charles Smith and Mr Coch-ran, O.J. Simpson's chief defence lawyer.

"It says to African-American men, we can come together, we can do this," Mr Cochran said. "And it says to others in the community, we should be more united."

Get On The Bus does not skirt the controversy sur-rounding the Million Man March, organised by the black separatist Louis Far-rakhan The film's only white character — played by stand-up comedian Richard Belzer — is a Jewish bus driver who fears he is indirectly aiding the anti-Semitic Nation of

Mr Farrakhan will appear in the film, but only in news footage showing his address to the march.

"We all know what hap-pened at the march," said Lee, whose films She's Gotta Have It, Jungle Fever and Malcolm X have been accused of polarising American audi ences on racial lines. "I didn't feel that we needed to dramatise the speeches. What is im-portant is what brings together these different African-American men and what happens to them on this



the march had to be for men. because it was they who were "in trouble" — with one in three black American males either in jail or in the court system.

To make the film, the cast

siderable pride, as the entire journey."

2.4 million (£1.5 million) budget was raised by individual The Bus is a men-only affair. | and crew staged their own journey — a 17-day voyage from LA through Tennessee and crew staged their own

and Virginia to Washington
— on real buses. With a budget tiny by Hollywood standards, they stayed in cheap motels and did without big-studio frills. There are no big overcame urban poverty, and The Preacher's Wife starring names among the cast, though the title song is sung by Michael Jackson. Get On The Bus is the first

Activists say that Lee

of a female running team who

Whitney Houston and Denzel Washington — a remake of the 1947 classic the Bishop's

who did not attend the Mil-lion Man March — is one of countless people inspired by last year's event. They claim thousands of black men have become community volunteers since the march - even though the political movement Mr Farrakhan sought to launch has failed to

Forget 1996, the vice-president and his challenger are

Martin Walker in Washington reports

thinking of 2000.

idential debate of the 21st century, last night's confrontation between the United States vicepresident, Al Gore, and his Republican challenger, Jack Kemp, was watched less for its impact on this year's elec-tion race than as a foretaste of the contest in 2000.

Each man will end this election season as his party's front-runner for the next contest, a status awarded both by precedent and by party protocol. Last night's debate before a national audience estimated at 50 million was the perfect showcase for the next presidential contenders.

"The spotlight on this debate is only partly about 1996 — it is even more about the dress rehearsal for the millennial election of the year 2000," Stan Greenberg, the Democratic pollster, said vesterday.

Mr Gore tried to discount such speculation: "It is of lim-ited use to try to predict what could happen in either party four years from now, and I'm not spending any time on that. The old saying that six months is a long time in politics is applicable here."

His protestations would be more convincing were it not for the "Gore-2000" and "Twelve More Years" signs that are starting to appear on the campaign trial, and the way that President Bill Clinton has boosted his running mate with an unprecedent edly high profile and

Last night's confrontation in St Petersburg, Florida, also carried an edge of personal drama, based on a curious reversal of styles.

Mr Kemp, loose and ebullient, a working-class hero who first made his name on the football field and is comfortable in the inner cities. preaches the promise of American opportunity with Democratic fervour.

Mr Gore is a patrician by birth, the son of a senator and a product of elite private schools. Despite intensive coaching by his handlers, he still appears as stiff and self-controlled as a Republican banker.

This reflects the way the parties themselves are realigning their support in the evolving US class system. The Democratic Party is moving beyond its old urban new yuppie elites which Mr Clinton has courted so

club and business traditions to become also the party of the populist South and the religious right.
Those trends will be inten-

sified if Mr Gore and Mr Kemp do emerge as standard bearers. Indeed, the real political drama of the next four years could hinge on their success in consolidating their current positions.

A Gore candidacy would solidify President Clinton's attempt to move the Democrats to the electable centre and the suburban middle class. This will mean facing down the traditional Democratic leaders in Congress, from the protectionist con-gressman Dick Gephardt to the radicals who look to Jesse

A Kemp candidacy would signal a Republican Party ever less content to allow the Democrats to keep their elec-toral base in the cities, the ethnic minorities and among blue-collar, white voters. A passionate believer in supplyside economics who holds that the magical growth effects of tax cuts will eventually tame the US bud-get deficit. Mr Kemp is determined to fight for the black and Hispanic vote on equal terms, preaching enterprise as the way out of the ghetto.

Mr Kemp and Mr Gore have been personal friends since

The spotlight on this debate is only partly about this year — it is even more about the dress rehearsal for the millennial election'

they served together in Congress, and each had to perform last night against his own nature.

Mr Kemp had to restrain his verbosity and his tendency to drift into arcane the ories about restoring the gold standard. Mr Gore had to en-ergise and relax his usual wooden style on camera, while restraining his own delight in the scientific detail of global warming, and the intricacies of bureaucratic Yet both had the urge to

win, and had practised for the debate assiduously. Mr Gore has carried with him for the past week a card with a quote from Mr Kemp in 1993, warning that the Clinton-Gore economic policy would "destroy jobs, increase the deficit and cripple

The Gore mantra is now "Wrong, wrong, and wrong again, Jack Kemp", a line assiduously. tailored to work as well in The Republican Party has November 2000 as it could grown beyond the country this year.

growth"

to eradicate rabbits with killer virus

Reuter in Sydney

AUSTRALIA has declared biological war on an estimated 200 million rabbits.

The rabbit population was first exposed to the calicivirus disease near Wagga Wagga, where the New South Wales agriculture minister, Richard Amery, released 20 infected rabbits into the

Farmers blame rabbits for causing damage to crops and driving indigenous animals and plants to the verge of extinction.

"It's probably the best news the environment has had in 20 years," said Mick Keogh, a farmers' representative.
Government officials say
the virus will eventually be released at 280 sites in all

Australia's states and territo-ries. Calicivirus kills rabbits in 12 to 24 hours by causing internal bleeding. The virus was first detected in Europe The disease is expected to eradicate up to 80 per cent of the rabbit population within two years. Rabbits currently outnumber humans in Australia by around 10 to one.

Australia set | Mrs Netanyahu's dirty linen gets second public washing

SARA Netanyahu, Isra-el's first lady and the prime minister's third wife, has been plunged into her second public scandal in six months.

It was revealed yesterday that her former husband is to publish a book about their marriage, which promises to reveal even more than the outraged nanny who left Mrs Netanyahu's employment this summer after being accused of burning the

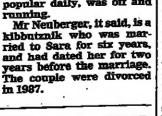
soup.

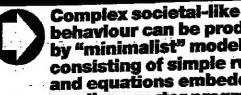
If Nannygate was a tasty appetiser for the Israeli tabloids, Doron Neu-berger's book bids fair to be a juicy ribsteak.

The story broke on Isra-

el's Channel Two televi-sion. Yesterday, Yediot Ah-ronoth. Israel's most popular daily, was off and

kibbutznik who was mar-ried to Sara for six years, and had dated her for two years before the marriage. The couple were divorced





behaviour can be produced by "minimalist" models consisting of simple rules and equations embedded in small computer programs. Models for mayhem

OnLine G2 page 12





thrust her into the spotlight

"Neuberger apparently decided to publish the book on his married life with Sara after he saw his for mer wife reviewing classi-fied state documents alongside her present husband, the prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahn," said the

The prime minister's lawyer, David Shimron, dis-missed this exciting claim yesterday. The picture in question, he said, had shown Mrs Netanyahu and her husband looking at their itinerary for a trip to Washington.

Back to Yediot Ahronoth: "The pictures led Neu-berger to conclude that decision-making, something which frightened him and led to his decision.

"He wrote the book revealing intimate secrets gets its hands on the about the prime minister's wife and, fearing Netanya-hu's close associates, kept hidden an additional copy

Neuberger possesses tapes and letters of his ex-wife that support his portrayal of an irresponsible woman. He claims that Sara's proximity to secret and classi-fied documents could endanger the state."

According to Yediot Ahronoth, Mr Neuberger ap-

proached a lawyer, who ap-proached a publicist, who approached the prime min-ister's office. The would-be warning that "whoever throws a bomb into his neighbour's yard should expect one to be thrown his

way too."
The paper went on: "The attempts to dissuade continue. Several days later, Sara Netanyahu tried to no avail to contact her former husband. Netanyahu's lawyers, Yitzhak Molcho and David Shimron, then ap-

proached him.
"Neuberger claims they
offered him sums of money to bury the book. Sources at the prime minister's office claim the contrary, saying Neuberger came to them at his own initiative several days after the elections and demanded \$1 million not to publish the book. After negotiating with him, the prime minister's associates decided not

to give in to his demands." Sara Netanyahu was in-volved in critical political patriot or a cad? Will Sara sue? And did they have any household help? This newspaper will reveal all — as soon as Yediot Ahronoth manuscript.



The CF-62. The safest notebook PC ever invented. protect the data on your PC Notebook from any loss automatically be backed up onto a PD disk which has the same storage capacity

as 450 floppy disks. The CF-62 has all the quality and specifications you would expect from a state of the art notebook PC including Pentium 133 MHz processor. 1.35 GB HDD, 1024 x 768 high resolution 12.1" TFT screen. PC card slots with ZV port and CD Rom 10 CO. Lets be careful out there. Panasonic

The Guardian

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E-mail: letters@guardian.co.uk Website: http://www.guardian.co.uk

When the economy boils

But for an election we'd be talking tax increases

in next month's budget? No. of course he won't. Although the wily Mr Clarke - who speaks today at Bournemouth to a party baying for tax cuts - keeps telling us that his budget judgment will be driven by fiscal prudence rather than politics, everyone presumes the opposite: that he is merely dousing our expectations so that, come budget day, he can unexpectedly conjure up cuts of 1p to 1.5p in the pound to whoops of joy up and down the country. But if the budget was about running the economy rather than winning an election there would be a strong case either for tax increases or for the Chancellor to reintroduce the "regulator" empowering him to change taxes between budgets. As the Institute for Fiscal Studies tells us in its annual Green Budget exercise (carried out with Goldman Sachs), public borrowing in 1996/97 is heading for £26.2 billion — a cool £4 billion above the last budget estimate.

This would take the PSBR to 3.5 per cent of GDP — well above the 3 per cent Maastricht ceiling which the UK will want to undershoot whether we join Europe's single currency or not. The IFS says the Budget will forecast the PSBR to drop to 2.8 per cent of GDP in 1997/98 but only by "unprecedentedly tight control of public spending" unlikely to happen in practice. The IFS believes Mr Clarke will announce tax cuts "funded" by unlikely cuts in public spending - leaving whoever wins the election to clean up the mess.

What Britain absolutely doesn't need now is tax cuts. They would threaten an unusually rosy outlook for the economy. The problem is that the recovery is far too biased towards consumption. If the fires of consumer spending are stoked up at the expense of investment and exports then the real prospect of a sustained recovery will have been wantonly thrown away and the Conserva-

WILL KENNETH CLARKE raise taxes | tives will notch up their third economic disaster in 17 years (the first two being the unnecessarily severe recessions at the start and end of the 1980s). Of course we all like tax cuts, but there's a time and a place and it's not now. Consider. Real incomes (after allowing for tax and inflation) are already rising at 4 per cent. Retail spending is on a roll and the full effect of interest rate reductions are still to come. There will be an overhang of £20 billion next year when the building societies converting to banks distribute their capital to shareholders. No one knows what will happen but if a third of this £20 billion is spent rather than saved it will have a huge effect on the economy. Has there ever been a better time for taking powers to introduce tax increases just in case they are necessary? What the economy desperately needs is more investment and exports not an import-hungry spending spree. If businessmen, who have been notoriously reluctant to invest, believe the recovery will end in tears next year then they will be doubly reluctant to lay down new plant without which longterm non-inflationary growth is

> After four years of moderate growth, the economy is poised to expand by 3 per cent and possibly by well over 4 per cent next year if the expansionary forces happen together. We should be trying to grow for as long as we can at a sustainable rate of between 2.5 per cent and 3 per cent. So far Mr Clarke has hardly put a foot wrong in macroeconomic management since (and because of) the enforced devaluation of 1992. The heavy guns of the Conservative Party — including Mr Major yesterday - have thrown their support behind his pro-Europe stance. If they gave similar support for an economic rather than a political budget then posterity - if not the electors - would be surprisingly grateful.

An utter lack of understanding

The letter to Mr Major was not a stunt, but a serious appeal

THE joint appeal by Tony Blair and with the whips office about neutering Paddy Ashdown for the issues surrounding the Hamilton case to be heard by a Tribunal of Inquiry rather than Sir Gordon Downey was a serious one deserving a considered response by the Prime Minister. It is a view that has now been supported by a diverse range of voices, including Geoffrey Robertson QC; The Times; Vernon Bogdanor, the Oxford Professor of Government; Andrew Neil, the former editor of the Sunday Times; and Doug Hoyle, who is a member of the very body in which Mr Major still has such faith. But Mr Major did not give a considered response. He instantly rejected the idea while Central Office dismissed the Ashdown/ Blair letter as "a stunt".

By treating the appeal with such contempt Mr Major has ensured that MPs will have to raise the subject rather more publicly in parliament next week. The Prime Minister's preference for a quick, quiet, limited inquiry is understandable, but plagued by difficulties. One is that several of the members of Sir Gordon's committee are themselves compromised. Mr Hoyle's constituency party received £500 from Ian Greer and he has conceded that he must step down. Sir David Mitchell must surely also consider whether it would be appropriate for him to hear any case against Hamilton, his former PPS. Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith should also consider whether he would command public confidence having taken part in an improper conversation

the previous Hamilton hearing. We publish today further concerns about the way the committee's chairman. Tony Newton, ensured that Mr Al Fayed's previous complaints were never fully aired before MPs.

Sir Gordon's committee must themselves wonder whether they are now up to the task in hand. Here are just some of the areas they should consider: the conduct of the Tory Trade and Industry Committee between 1985 and 1990; the conduct of Tim Smith and Hamilton in accepting cash for questions; the extent to which Smith and Hamilton were vetted before being appointed to sensitive ministerial posts; Hamilton's conduct as a minister, the extra-parliamen-tary income of Hamilton dating back nearly 10 years; all payments made by Ian Greer to any MPs over the past 15 years; the relationship between Prime Minister and Mr Greer; the relationshop between five named Tory MPs and Greer: the nature of the Lord Chancellor's assurances to the House of Lords; whether Hamilton lied to Mr Heseltine: the ethics of MPs accepting secret pay-ment for acting on behalf of constitu-ents; why Mr Major did not demand Smith's resignation as soon as he knew

of his cash from Mr Fayed. This list is by no means exhaustive. But it does indicate why a call for a Tribunal of Inquiry is no mere 'stunt.' And it does indicate why the Prime Minister's contemptuous dismissal of it is itself beneath contempt.

The Taliban menace in Kabul

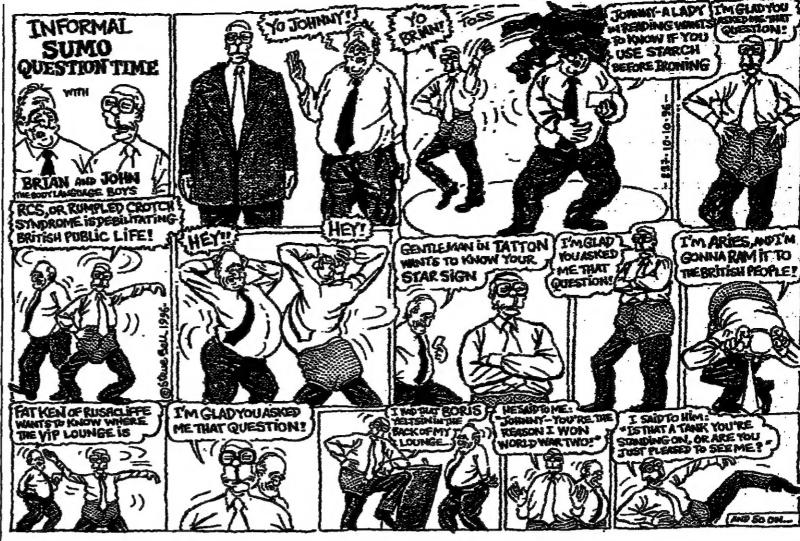
Backing the fundamentalists is fundamentally wrong

NOW WE KNOW why the US has been | "thinking". John Holtzman, deputy so keen to establish contact with the fanatical Taliban militiamen in Afghanistan. Indeed it was in such a hurry last week that a team of diplomats almost flew into Kabul. The trip was only cancelled at the last moment when someone realised that it might not be premature for a different reason, mesh too well with the image of Taliban militia pistol-whipping innocent

women for not covering up completely. The State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns has now managed to straighten things out. Contact with the Taliban, he explains, has nothing to do with unworthy motives like backing the Afghan (Sunni) fundamentalists because they are opposed by the Iranian (Shia) fundamentalists — far less because the ousted government forces and their allies are being supported by Russia. It is instead a golden opportunity to "influence them" (the Taliban) and have some positive effect on their is "our monster."

chief of the US mission in Islamabad (widely believed to be the CIA's station chief) is said to be eager to discuss points of dogma, sexual morality and clothing with the Taliban.

Backing the Taliban may turn out to after the setback which they suffered yesterday in the Salang Pass. It is unlikely that the tables will be reversed completely upon them, but the ex-government with its new Uzbek ally General Dostum will now dig in through the winter, posing a permanent challenge. The unfortunate people of Afghanistan will continue to suffer twice over from having first been occupied by Soviet forces and then liberated by the feuding mojahedin. Pakistan, with tacit US approval, has created a new monster to join those already in the field. But at least, so Chief Holtzman may argue, it



Letters to the Editor

A conference sketch

ers' ability to drive by disqualifying them from driving for non-motoring offences, as announced by the Home Secretary (Conservatives in Bournemouth, October 9), needs to be questioned for two reasons. Is it workable, and is it an acceptable

way of punishing people? On the first count, it is very unlikely that people with con-victions for offences unre-lated to motoring, like bur-glary, will be seriously incapacitated by a driving disqualification. They will simply drive whilst disquali-tied. Secondly, this measure marks an important philosophical departure in sentencing. A driving disqualifi-cation for offences unrelated to driving could be the thin end of a very sinister wedge. Our government, along with many other public

bodies, regulates access to many important services and rights of citizens. If this concept of removing access to a service for an unrelated matter was to be extended, where might it take us? Could, for instance, passports be taken ment? It is obvious the policy has not been properly thought

Mary Honeyball. General Secretary, Association of Chief Officers of Probation. 212 Whitechapel Road. London E1 1BJ.

Malls mauled

PAUL Barker's hymn of praise to the shopping mail falls into the trap of

equating popularity with worth (Living on the edge, Oc-

tober 8). By that token, co-caine dealers would get the

Queen's Award for Industry.

problems presented to society by the growth of out-of-town

shopping. Firstly, every green-field development turns

its back on the dereliction it

eaves behind and which the

rest of us have to pay to clean

Secondly, these temples of

consumption serve to in-

crease the grip of multiple chain stores at the expense of amall businesses and entre-preneurs to whom he offers the sop of the car-boot sale.

His vision of a world where

"panhandlers, alkies and sad people" are banished is nei-

ther sustainable nor desir-

able. If even Mr Gummer can

see this, I am surprised that Mr Barker cannot. Paul Chandler.

lution won't clog his kids'

As long as society can afford

to discard — rather than revi-

talise -- developed assets and

sacrifice more precious open

comes up with something

development is easier and

land is cheaper, especially when banked far enough in

advance. Planning-consent

windfalls" are much of what

developers' landbanks - and

The consumer then "bene

fits" from the end product

while society as a whole must grapple with the real cost. Sounds a bit like cigarette

Meanwhile, John Gum

more shiny and new

profits — are about.

smoking, really.

The Hop Kilns,

Suckley, Worcs WR6 5EH.

He does not address the two

plan to take away the driving licences of criminals mean that if they are over 65 they will have their bus Brian Parkin. 29 Adela Avenue, New Malden KT3 6LF.

R Mawhinney introduced John Major to the Tory

conference as "the most honest man in British politics". Bearing in mind that "Honest John" has led the most politically corrupt and morally de-generate government in living memory, was embarrassed into setting up Nolan because of the behaviour of his MPs. and was less than truthful over the Scott Report, I was wondering if Dr Mawhinney could be sued under the Trades Descriptions Act. John Henderson Wishing Tree Road,

East Sussex TN38 9LA WHEN Michael Forsyth proudly told his confer-

ence that a foreign company was opening a factory in Scotland, and suggested that it would not have done so if w had a minimum wage, he was applauded. Should we be so eased that foreign firms will only invest in Britain as long as we provide cheap labour? George McMillan. 207 North Road.

stein's views on accessible

music (Provocations, October

But why normal people find it accessible is more fun-

damental than he suggests Most "sounds in nature"

vibrate anything but tonally.

The harmonies used in ortho

dox music and the harmonics

of instrumental sounds are "tonal" because our hearing

mechanism selected them: it reacted to these artefacts in

an unusual way. The appeal

built and spontaneous. Schoenberg's ideas were

quite illogical. One cannot

Essex SSO 7AF.

DOES Michael Howard's | WOULD be grateful if you plan to take away the would refrain from printing driving licences of criminals such large and colourful pictures of Mrs Thatcher (Front page. October 9) as this puts me off my breakfast and upsets my five-month-old son. Christopher Maris. 3/Q Peabody Avenue, London SWIV 4AU.

> OW interesting to see the Secretary of State for Wales upholding the Union by brandishing a flag which contains no Welsh element. Annabelie Harie. 4 Ovington Terrace, Cardiff CF5 1GF.

N the Tory Party web page, under the "how to join" section (http://www. conservative-party.org.uk/ howtjoin/howtjoin.htm), there is a quote from Janine Kitch-ener. "I joined the Conserva-tives because I believe in their kind of Britain. Also, I enjoy meeting other people, some-thing which is so easy to do in the friendly atmosphere of the

Conservative Party. Under the Scottish section (http://www.conservativeparty.org.uk/scottish/join/in-dex.html), Tracey MacInnes says: "I joined the Conservatives because I believe in their kind of Scotland. Also, I enjoy meeting other people, some thing which ... [etc]." Similar but different. Paul Reeves.

AND NOW 1/2

DO MY SIR

HARRISON BIRT

WISTLE

tonal scale; one cannot tell

our hearing mechanism to abandon that which is inher-

ent. There is no problem in devising atonal scales, or

atonal instruments - most

pitched percussion instru-

ments are — if people do want

to create atonal music.
Incidentally, the first three

overtones of instrumental

sounds do not produce a chord; the third, fourth and

fifth harmonics have the same

pitches as a major chord.

(Prof.) Sir James Beament.

8 Hale Street. Cambridge CB4 3BZ.

Why the police force is no place for any self-respecting female

ROM January to June of and thoughtful man, actually this year 1 worked as a believed that female officers member of the Police Support missed the more "rigorous" Staff with my local force. Before I joined, I was offered the following advice regardingsexual harassment from a close family friend, an ex-police sergeant: "The proper way to deal with any touching you don't feel comfortable with is politely but firmly to make it known that you don't like it. Never complain — this won't gain you any respect."

I started work determined to keep an open mind. I was aware of media interest in police culture and particularly their treatment of women. Whilst I was never at the "cutting edge" of any sexual harassment. I witnessed plenty of incidents that con-formed to the stereotypical image of the police force as a masculine stronghold with absolutely no time for women.

For example, one female officer asked to be put on light duties (as was her entitle-ment) on becoming pregnant. This was seen as weak and unnecessary — never mind that one jab from an elbow do great damage. Obscene language was commonplace. All women, officers and members of the public, were 'tarts". Banter of a sexual nature was regarded as the norm, although male officers were aware that they were not supposed to oversten the

missed the more "rigorous" banter that had taken place in the past. I only met one female officer who was comfortable within the police culture. As you report (Inside story, October 9), most put up with the comments and innuendo, even joining in at times, so as not to appear "soft".

Yes, many incidents may be viewed as trivial, and yes, female officers need to be able to cope with the rigors of the streets. But a culture that constantly demeans women, constantly views them as second-class citizens, should not be tolerated. Name and address supplied.

WHAT the authors of your article on police sexual harassment did not examine (and which to the best of my recollection was never examined four years ago when the DPP was prosecuted and resigned for kerb-crawling) was this: what effect does the sexist behaviour and attitudes within the police force have on crime? We have a during a street fraces could steadily growing rate of creasing numbers of rapists are brought to trial and found police be when they have the same opinions and socialisation as the criminal? Helen Bunter.

Alliance Road mark. One sergeant, a kind Ramsgate, Kent CT11.

Injecting sense into the flu plan

EACH year our Chief Medi-cal Officer, Kenneth Calman, states that the "wrong" people are taking up influenza immunisation, and that only those at risk from pre-existing illness should apply (Healthy' urged not to take flu vaccines, October 8). This is in marked contrast

to France (the home of Pasteur) where in early October TV channels that the vaccine is now ready and recommending that the whole population

While the injection does not always prevent influenza, the only possible strategy for preventing the serious epidemics which have occurred in the past.

Initial higher costs to the NHS might well be counter-balanced by reduced hospital costs for serious complica-tions of influenza, such as

(Dr) Pamela Aylett. 4 Nepean Street, London SW15 5DW.

THE "worried well" who are taking up 25 per cent of the flu vaccines may be worrying about someone other than themselves. What happens when the carer of an elderly person or a child at risk Sara Clarke.

3.742 Yes

45 Church Street, Havfield. High Peak SK22 2JE.

OU do not mention flu-jab side effects such as have laid low several of my friends. And I find it ironic that your report apparently advocates the jab for those with diabetes, in view of the consideration reported in Nature that a vaccine is just as likely as a virus to trigger the immune system to attack the insulin-producing cells in the pancreas. H Clarke.

Furnall Avenue, Great Longstone, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1TX. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot ac-

knowledge those not used.

Corruption that goes to the roots

Queens' College

Cambridge CB3 9ET.

That inbuilt sense of rhythm

AGREE with Keith Bur- | write atonal music using a

O Paul Barker toasts out-of-town shopping malls? As long as greater traffic polimgs. As long as his pension Vernon Bogdanor (Put the House in order, October 8) are contributions aren't invested in suffering town centres necessary to deal with the immediate consequences of the (though they probably are). Hamilton/Greer affair, but they amount to treating one of the symptoms rather than the disease itself.

The root cause of this sorry space on a crowded island simply because someone episode is our persistence in the undemocratic and outmoded "first-past-the-post" electoral system, with its ten-dency to produce single-party The fact is that out-of-town majority governments.

Other overdue reforms,

such as a written constitution and a Freedom of Information Act, would help to curb the governments' arbitrary behaviour. The most urgent requirement, however, is the adoption of a fully proportional voting system. Given our voting patterns, this would in all probability give rise to coalition governments. These are less tempted to ar-rogant or unlawful behaviour, if only because cover-up operations are so much harder to mount when they

HE measures advocated by | require a conspiracy across party boundarie David Ratford Wisborough Cottage, Wisborough, West Sussex RH14 ODZ.

> IREAD with interest (Leader. October 8) that Tim Smith night become chair of the Public Accounts Committee. All this despite his confession that he took cash for questions from Al Fayed and asked dozens of questions in the House on behalf of his clients. We must never let him forget that he has used his public office for personal financial eain.

New voters in my constituency tell me that the "cash for questions" MPs are one of the main reasons why they have no interest in politics. They see politics as cheap and dirty - due in no small part to Smith's actions.

Alastair Hudson. (Labour PPC, Beaconsfield.) 31 Walk Wood Rise.

A Country Diary

high summer but with that autumn nip — and we are on the north Mayo coast. No stripped limestone barren hills here. What a dramatic change of landscape, from green fields by Ballycastle to brown bogland, the blanket bog of north-west Mayo and here. In this one corner, a field of two hectares or five acres. To stand in this field and observe is suddenly to realise that we are seeing the landscape as it was 5,000 years ago because not a single stone has been moved since the bog enwrapped all. The last touch, before excavation, was by the finger of a Stone Age human being. We think how 200 generations of farmers could have changed this field through 50 centuries. Elsewhere and throughout our island we have wedge tombs, passage graves as ancient as this patch but the countryside surrounding them has been transformed

CEIDE FIELDS, CO MAYO, | irrevocably, beyond thought, IRELAND: A day of wind and perhaps beyond even imagisun — almost like a day of nation. We could never have known except for the preserving bog, turf-cutting and excavation. Time can be almost incalculable so that ancient peoples can seem light years away. Yet, as we step down from the bog into the exposed field, and each step down is a step back in time, we are struck by the similarity of this oldest enclosed farmland in Europe to the small stone-walled fields of Ireland's west. Here cattle grazed, here was a pen for calves, here a bouse and hearth (carbon-dated to 3000 BC). Here was a peaceful people who co-operated, clearing primeval forest, shaping land into fields, heaving a quarter of a million tons of stone to make dividing walls. Before the construction of the pyramids these fields were deserted. Close to 370ft high, Ceide Cliffs, assailed by sea winds, sluicing rains, held for us in a perfect time capsule, the blanket bog.

SARAH POYNTZ

UPY100120

Matthew Norman

YEAR after Alan Howarth's defection,

New Labour cele-

brates a new recruit. Aptly, for the PR party, it's the

grandpappy of spin himself ... Max Clifford. On Mon-

Paul, Max - who claims to

day, at the invitation of party organiser Tracey

hate "Tory hypocrisy" _ will tell members of

Mitcham Labour Party in

Surrey why he will be vot-ing Labour (from 7.30pm at Colliers Wood Community

Centre; tickets are £5, in-

Max's previous contribu-

tions to the Labour cause in-cluded the David Mellor

Chelsea-strip confection, and his work on Derek Hat-

ton's image. Thus far, it is

unclear whether he has par-

liamentary ambitions, but

rumours of a power struggle at PR HQ on Mill-bank are inevitable. "Yes,

Mandy knows all about
Max's speech," said rapidrebuttal king Oofy WeggProsser. "No, he doesn't
feel threatened. Why should

he?" In that case, will a role be found for Max at

Millbank? "No," rebutted Oofy. Ah well, but how sad

to waste such a genius for

Sunday, confusion reigns. On Tuesday,

T the Independent on

cluding bar and buffet).



e force is no pla

specting female

W

Y

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27 M

The live SARE IN

a tour



during his resignation speech to staff, outgoing ditor Peter Wilby received two messages from Charlie Wilson, Monty Montgomery's fey Glaswegian henchman, instructing him not to reveal his successor. Rosie Boycott remains an odds-on favourite, but we doubt it can possibly be her, since on Monday she agreed that rumours of her appoint-ment were "completely and utterly untrue". Unless an announcement is made forthwith, Gentleman Char-(the West Highland terrier who turned two on Tuesday), will be coming out of retirement once again.

CONVERSATION has been overheard in Bournemouth. "You know James Cran quit the Government to spend more time with his consituency? said one Tory delegate to another. "Well, apparently Steve Norris" — that's Shagger to us — "has been sniffing around it." "Oh, really?" said the other. "Yes. He's already had five mistresses, and now he wants to get to know Beverley." Oh, dear. Did these callous fools miss the Daily Mail interview in which Shagger confessed that, when news of his appetites leaked, he would sit in his car, sobbing? That's the thing about these ministers . . . they do cry, you know. Iney cry.

HE death of Brendan Woolhead, the man wrongly assumed to be an IRA bomber in the Aldwych bus explosion, has caused some newspapers grief. Uncharitable types at the Daily Mirror (which paid him £180,000 in libel (255,000) and the Sun (£102,000) reflect that, had they held out a little longer, the legal adage that a libel have come to their aid.

N what could just be an Internet myth news from a Salt Lake City burns unit races through cyberspace. 'In retrospect lighting the match was my big mistake," said Eric To-maszewski, who was hurt num during a session in-volving Raggot the gerbil and a tube. When Raggot refused to leave Kiki's innards, Eric popped a lit match inside the tube, hoping to entice him out. "The match ignited a pocket of intestinal gas," said a hospi tal spokesman, "and a flame shot out of the tube. igniting Mr Tomaszewski's hair and severely burning his face." There's more. "It also ignited the gerbil's whiskers. This in turn ig-nited a pocket of gas further up the intestine, propelling the rodent out like a canrecovering. There is no word of the gerbil.

BOOK of Lady Thatcher's greatest speeches has been postponed. According to a HarperCollins press officer it is pure coincidence that the book will now be pub-lished next June, immediately after the last possible date for the election.



Tories prove that small isn't beautiful

Commentary

Hugo Young

HE Tories are becoming small. Small in number, small in mind. The more solemnly they talk about the nation, the smaller the nation seems to get. Their horizons are narrowing to the size of an average Union

They are also getting older. This is a gathering of the grey. The women, especially, are getting on. Menacing co-horts of young men patrol the streets from fringe to fringe, but they do not seem particularly interested in the party of 1996. Their sights are set on the next century. Old and young are united by the kind of despair that is on the cusp of turning nasty.

On Tuesday evening, after the hour at which any news-paper could do it justice, the European Foundation held a rally that was packed to the doors. Bill Cash and Norman Tebbit strode in to the loudest rendition of Land of Hope and Glory I've ever heard. Reaching the platform, they

sat oddly in this company. The occasion's political an-

cestry was unmistakable: this was the Tory version of the Tribune Rally at Labour conferences 1976-1983 - the beating heart of the uncorpearing neart of the uncorrupted party, the voice of the faith, glancingly connected to the official apparatus, but fundamentally contemptuous of a leadership that has lost

its way.

Mr Cash said some pretty startling things that didn't startle his audience in the least. He talked about appeasement and defeatism over Europe, explicitly likening current events with what happened in the 1930s, and making the insinuation that Britain's failure to veto the Treaty of Maastricht was on the way to having the same result as Chamberlain's visit to Munich.

Knowing smirks about the Germans have ceased to be daring. They're common cur-rency in the discourse of both Cash and Tebbit. Tebbit said that Commissioner Brittan was guilty of treason. Cash summoned up mysterious "fifth columnists" whom it would be the solemn duty of the House of Commons to destroy.

The audience, perhaps 20 per cent of the total attending the conference, cheered all this without reserve. It spoke

David Heathcote-Amory's Union is nothing but a con-meticulous exposition of his views on the single currency and that the only way to win the next election is to come out with this loud and clear. denouncing in perpetuity any further move towards integration. A moment in his-tory has been reached, we are to understand, when the nation, however small in the scheme of things, must cling, gallantly undefeated, to its beritage.

The tyranny of this pre-sumption extended beyond fringe meetings. It paralyses ministers, depriving them of the capacity for truth. With the exception of John Gummer, no functional minister has dared utter a word of acknowledgment that the EU has positive value.

Michael Forsyth and the

new young Disraeli, William Hague, gushing with self-con-gratulation at their brillian success in luring Korean and Japanese investors to their undevolved regions of the Kingdom, couldn't find the elementary honesty to say that this would never have hap pened without a lot of help from the British-EU connection. Since these men know what they are doing, they can only be called political

As one listens to this party debate, and registers the roars of disgust at every de-velopment of "Europe", what comes through is the inwardlooking littleness to which stood to attention, their eyes to convictions that have the Conservative Party is in lifted to some far empyrean gripped a sizeable portion of danger of terminally sucas the chords crashed down. the party: that the European cumbing. This is ventilated

by occasional blah about the Pacific Rim, for the party wants to have it both ways. It doesn't want to be called the Little England party, and hates the charge of xenopho-bia. Ingenious Euro-sceptics even have a nice line in casuistry which claims that the Euro-philes are the true Lit-tle Englanders. But in truth the party masses, the prole-Toriat, are on the very edge of pitching it into an abyss of narrow, futile and menacing

عدا من الاص

That this is not yet certain to happen, however, is shown by the reception Malcolm Rifkind got for his speech yesterday. The same people who had sweated with ecstasy at being shoulder-toshoulder with Norman Teb-bit gave Rifkind a standing ovation for a speech which skilfully begged every ques-

In its guts, the Tory party is getting ready for a period in opposition when every division will be triumphantly expressed

tion that Tebbit and Cash had deemed it to be a matter of imperative historic destiny to answer without another day's delay. His was a cun-ning display of rigour in de-fence of indecision, delivered with theatrical grimness. Theirs was a response which Theirs was a response which appeared to say the Government was, after all, right to be doing exactly what Bill Cash says is a crime against the truth. They lay down and died, before they stood up and cheered, before the ageod claim that all good Tories but the nation, not the party. put the nation, not the party, first.

decision it cannot change This is a rare event in the saga of John Major's leader-ship. Every senior minister has come to the microphone to state with unaccustomed clarity, shorn of any weasel-word exception, that Britain will remain a putative candidate-member of economic and monetary union until the EMU negotiation is complete. The prime minister said it again yesterday. At last there is a wall at his back.

One consequence of this is that the speeches, like Rif-kind's, can get tougher. The Foreign Secretary made fewer rhetorical concessions to the sceptics than when he spoke in Zurich. The fact that his speech, like the speeches of several others here, had to be made with an eye on a post-election struggle for the party leadership only con-firms the point Like it or not, ministers whose job it is to speak about these things are now absolutely obliged to fight back against the scep-tics. And because the Tory Party, in its heart, doesn't like being disloyal, the better side of its divided personality is still capable, at least for a

day, of being brought out. But the division is there. and it is deeply entrenched. Mr Major, in the informal Question Time that showed him at his best yesterday, blithely said he believed that the divisions over Europe were now over. This is obvious nonsense. It is just con-ceivable they can be half-sup-pressed for practical purposes before the election. purposes before the election.
But in its guts, the party is
getting ready for a period in
opposition when every division will be triumphantly
expressed. Loudest by far is
the side that's proud to be
British and let the devil take
the hindmost. Smallness does
not bother it. Only defeatism. not bother it. Only defeatism could suppose otherwise. Burke, Pitt, Salisbury — the quotations of the timeless Tory past abound. The lights

choice; either we divide the

aspirations, and eroding the prospects for a gradual fulfil-

not provide Israel with peace and security if the Israelis try

to erode their commitment to relinquish the populated Pal-

It is true, of course, that the

Natanyahu government dur-ing its first 100 days in power had given the Palestinians lit-

tle more than frustration and

humiliation. But it is no less

talists, who waged a wave of

terrorist attacks on Israeli ci-

vilians earlier this year, had probably brought about the

government. Despair and frustration beget frustration

What has happened to the are coming on in the little Cabinet is that it has made a land of hope and glory.

Last stop for the travelling people



George Monbiot

RITAIN'S Romanies always knew there was something fishy about the Government's promise to let them establish their own sites, and last month the European Court confirmed it. There should, it ruled, be no special provision for gypsies under Britain's planning laws. They would, as a letter from Robert Jones, the Minister for Planning, reaffirmed in the Guardian yesterday, have to accept the same conditions as everyone else. Plan ning permission had been the gypsies' last hope.

The Criminal Justice Act removed local authorities responsibility to provide sites, and the great majority of traditional stopping places some of which had been used by travellers since the Bronze Age — have been bar-ricaded during the last 20 years, which explains the record numbers of caravans now packed into official sites, Seeking permission to pitch camp on their own land, as

Jones advocates, is a poor substitute for wayfaring, but the only remaining means of holding their communities together. Yet 90 per cent of all such applications are turned down. Planning, Britain's gypsies are now coming to see, is not an opportunity but a peril, a means of forced assimilation as effective as Guatemala's integration of the country's Indians, or Sad-dam Hussein's containment of the Marsh Arabs For 23 years, the Romanies of Swan Farm, beside the vil-

country between ourselves and the Palestinians or else we go on suppressing them. age of Ash in Kent, have tried to muddle along without per-mission. When, in 1973, they Opting for the latter, we will have no peace.

The Palestinians for their paid £7,000-£8,000 for each plot, they knew they were taking a risk, but it had to be a better part have to make their own sharp choice. Either they renounce the armed struggle against Israel altogether and embark on the road towards bet, they reasoned, than end-less harassment by landowners and the police. Like creating a Palestine next door to Israel, in peace with us; or they opt for a resumption of gypsies almost everywhere they were welcomed coolly by their neighbours. There were the armed struggle against Is-rael, thus undermining the complaints of stolen cars ap-pearing on the site and of pragmatic position of the Ischildren running wild raeli doves, evoking even more antaeonism in Israeli

> obtained a compulsory pur-chase order, and is now offer-ing the Romanies \$200-300 for part of it into regular parcels,

on electricity, then sell leases to the Romanies for £14,000. The residents were aston ished, but found that the council has acted within the law. Without permission, the land was worth no more than its agricultural value. With permission, it acquired devel-opment-zone prices. If they can't afford to pay all at once, the council says, they can pay in instalments, and if they can't afford that they can, like 90 per cent of Kent's gypsies, go on the housing list.

In the meantime, a spiked fence and security lighting have been erected to keep the Romanies in. And, since a fight over the provenice of a security light over the provenice of a security light over the provenice. car in May, the police have agreed to mount a 24-hour guard at the gates. With their housing situation resolved, the council enthuses, the gypsy children's schooling will be assured. The Roma-nies will be "empowered to have the same opportunities as other people".

It all looks neat, ordered

and sensible. Admittedly, the security arrangements might appear a touch insensitive, in the light of the gypsies' recent history. It's true, too, that without land for their horses, and with trading banned on the new site, their economic activities will come to an abrupt end, just as their community life might have some difficulty straddling the picket fences. But, newly em-powered, the lucky gypsies will now have opportunities to seek work as zero-hourcontract cleaners, just like the rest of us.

It seems strange that we find it so hard to see what we are doing to these people. We have no such difficulty when urging Brazil to stop taking land from the Indians. Chi na's announcement last week that it will build new schools all over Tibet to eliminate illiteracy (and a few antisocial cultural tendencies was greeted in Britain not with delight but with repulsion. We were quick to condemn Ceausescu for forcing Romania's gypsies into regular housing

ET somehow, perhaps because the means of assimilation in Britain overlook them. Had our planning system been designed to exclude travellers, it could not have been more oppressive. Strict zoning into develop-

ment land (with premiums so through gardens.

Had Swan Farm been an ordinary housing estate, Kent County Council might have concentrated on the handful had buildings can be concentrated on the handful ment of their hopes and state—of people who were causing people who need cheap plots hood. The name of the deal is the problems; but, as the for caravans. The gypsies' land for peace. The Israelis settlement had no planning last option was not an option are not going to relinquish permission, the council was at all. The Romanies and more land if they are not setting peace and security in return. The Palestinians will obtained a compulsory pursuide, legally, respectably, and side, legally, respectably, and by decent, conscientious people like the officers of Kent County Council. Our intheir plots. Once it acquires | Kent County Council. Our in-the land, it will divide a small | capacity to accommodate get planning permission, lay | nation to shame.

This land is for peace

It is time to rethink the Israeli-**Palestinian** conflict as a real-estate dispute, argues

Amos Oz

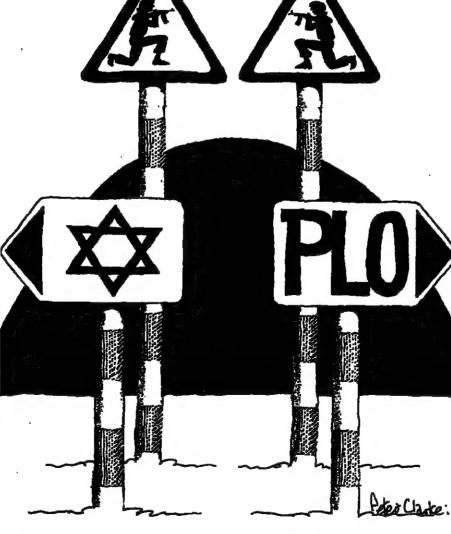
HE Israeli hawks may have a point in criticising the Oslo agreements; being potential friction areas. With mous territories punctuated by fortified Israeli settlements, and with enclaves of militant Israeli settlers surrounded by autonomous Palestinian zones, local clashes are likely to occur, particularly as on both sides there are extremists who would regard an explosion as a

tempting option.

The conclusion from this situation, however, is not as some hawks maintain — to derail the Oslo accords altogether, but just the opposite; we must stick to all existing agreements while moving sive Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement, based on a permanent and reasonable division of the disputed homeland of the Israelis and Palestinians

into two soverign states.
Once this principle is estab lished, both parties can nego-tiate, in a spirit of pragmatic compromise, all the controversial problems: security, settlements, Jerusalam, refu-gees, water, etc. But we all need to know promptly that, at the end of the day, Israel and Palestine are going to emerge as two neighbouring nations rather than a compli-cated patchwork of ethnic

The most urgent task is to redefine the conflict as a realestate dispute — who is going to get which part of the land



into a religious battle over which flags wave over holy places. From a Jewish point of view, waving an Israeli flag over sacred tombs does not make those tombs any holier. Perhaps the only reasonable solution for locations which have religious significance for more than one faith is

resolved through a compro-mise. The conflict over whose faith prevails is insoluble. There are a few places in this ancient land which ought to be accessible to worshippers of all faiths but not controlled by the armed forces of any one of them. Raving national-

on both sides from turning it | whose land it is can be | of both is almost certain to prove lethal. At this point in time, most Palestinians, as well as the majority of the Israelis, know that the country is going to be partitioned between the two nations. Even those who regard any partition as un-just, or disastrous or sacriliestate dispute — who is going for more than one faith is to get which part of the land a simply not to wave any flags — so as to prevent the zealots over them. The dispute over them to get which part of the land over them. The dispute over them to get which part of the land over them. The dispute over them to the land over them to gious crusading is another potential killer. A combination make an urgent simple (Vintage, £5.99)

Israeli-Palestinian injury.

To break this vicious circle. both parties must stick now to the spirit and the letter of the Oslo agreement, while not forgetting that these agree-ments, by definition, are no more than interim agreements; they act as a tourniquet, not a remedy - to be kept tight in place but need-ing to be replaced before too long by a more thorough and permanent treatment of the

In the war against poverty, familie, disease, drought and illiteracy, there's one truly formidable weapon. You. At Voluntary Service Overseas, we currently have 1,900 skilled volunteers from engineers to doctors sharing their knowledge everywhere from Kenya to China. For more information about YSO, please call \$181 769 1329. The hattle for a fairer world is one that's really worth fighting. Whatery Service Overseas Charley Stitules Charles Lives



and ears.

Why I refused to call Esther

Television is joining the tabloids in making criminals into celebrities: that, says Myra Hindley, is why she would not talk to Esther Rantzen

ther, telling me that one of | views crime? the first programmes for 2. What is your view on the new series was to be a criminals becoming discussion about whether celebrities? or not the British are be 3. Are you coming obsessed with

crime in the 1990s. He went on to say that ually to feed the public's insatiable appetite for Esther doing a programme crime with people such as myself becoming as famous cians, if not more so. He sonal questions asking enclosed a list of questions, which read as follows:

| Approximate the perpetrated against the helpless and the current climate of tabloid them and get pleasure from the helpless and the other people's pain. Their abused, of which there are with the ozone layer thin presence, still alive in thousands, if not millions.

earcher working on media, how do you feel the BBC talkshow, Es- about the way this country

3. Are you being increas-ingly approached by television companies, authors and journalists? Have you the press seemed confin-ually to feed the public's
4. What do you think about

> on this subject? There were also two

RECEIVED a letter in 1. As someone who is regu- welcome "window" to the ning, the likelihood of windows from a larly talked about in the outside world; and in gen- ter disappearing is far eral, whether I reply. I did not respond to the ance celebrities. letter for several reasons, one of which is because the becoming programme itself - broadcast last Friday — was de-

signed to propagate the "celebration" of criminals, 1994 the Sun carried a huge and I think the notion of headline: "Execute Myra, criminals becoming/being says Esther." She said: made into celebrities is morally wrong. I also be-lieve this question about criminals is as pointless as asking whether there should be a winter. In the

greater than the disappearof criminal

I must say I was sur-prised to be asked to contribute to the programme, considering that in October "Evil people like her are from a different species. I don't want them in the world. These people [me and my co-defendant have a force of evil motivating them and get pleasure from the helpless and the

prison, makes the parents' memories as vivid now as they were 30 years ago. In an ideal world, I would like to see God strike Hindley and Brady dead; just wipe them out."

My own view is that more consideration should be given to victims and fam-ilies of victims in a compas-sionate and constructive way. I believe it would do much more to help them cope with their grief and loss than demonising criminals, and thus, in the process, making them into ce-lebrities. By regularly contacting and manipulat-ing the families of victims, the tabloids continue to remind them of and exacerbate their suffering. But this sells papers.

I think Esther Rantzen should confine her pro-

Fuel the chemist's fame

ing father of zeolite brane science. His research resulted in a huge increase in efficiency in converting crude oil to high octane fuel, and changed the way that deter-gents were manufactured. The commercial application of his discoveries, which allowed fuel to be manufac-tured at half its previous cost, may be said to have com-pletely altered the economy of

He was born on his parents sheep farm in New Zealand and obtained his first degree from Canterbury College. now Canterbury University in Christchurch. In 1932 Barship to Cambridge where he joined Sir Eric Rideal's lab-oratory. Rideal encouraged his colleagues to produce their own ideas and, as a result of reading McBain's Sorption of Gases by Solids, Barrer became highly excited about the sorption of gases in zeolites, especially chahazite, crystals with strictly regular of molecular dimensions which were exactly defined by their lattice parameters. most significant new fields of Gaining his PhD in 1935 Barrer continued to research

into zeolite. His initial studies confirmed the molecular sieving properties of these crystalline, microporous solids and in 1938 he published his results in Sorption of Polar and non-Polar Gases by Zeolites. Over the next 15 years, although handicapped by the difficulties of carrying out research during the second world war, he published a further 35 papers characterising these microporous frameworks as absorbents and catalysts. He clearly demonstrated for the first time how these minerals could be synthesised in the laboratory; could be modified by ion-ex-change and could be converted into extremely strong, environmentally friendly, solid acid catalysts with shape-selective properties.



at half its previous cost tally friendly replacement for phosphates in detergents since the 1970s.

application of

manufactured

kylammonium compounds

could be used as "templates" in the synthesis of zeolites, a

rials and processes developed

as a result of Barrer's work

was the zeolite ZSM-5. It is used as the catalyst in a

power plant built in New Zea-land for the conversion of nat-

allowed fuel

to be

his discoveries

large industrial processes for the separation of hydrocarbons, oxygen/nitrogen and other gas and liquid mix-tures. From studies on the ion-exchange thermodynamions in zeolite A, some one million tons of this zeolite are ers in detergents. It has been

in the late 1950s and early

The commercial |

College, Bedford College, Lon-College, Bedford College, London and five years as the chair of chemistry at the University of Aberdeen (1949-1954), Barrer was appointed professor of physical chemistry at Imperial College, London where he remained until his retirement. He was an excellent tracher with an incellent teacher, with an in-tense and infectious interest in the scientific problem at hand. As head of the chemistry department, he enjoyed

turning his back on all his administration problems and immersing himself in discussions during his daily visits to every member of his large research school. He was regularly consulted by many large industrial corporations right up to his death and was still publishing papers of considity in 1996.

rer showed great prowess at athletics and tennis. He won the Oxford-Cambridge cross-country championship for 1934 and the British Universi-

per cent of the fuel needs of the country dear to Barrer's heart.

After Clare College Cam-bridge, Bradford Technical lin Olympic Games. His ten-nis was still good enough, as late as 1990, to withstand all challenges in partnership with Bob Van Norstrand, who was six years his junior at the triennial British Zeolite

Association meetings Richard Maling Barrer was a most distinguished scientist. Although a shy person he had complete confidence in his own abilities. During his life he published over 400 papers, three monographs and took out 21 patents. He was nominated for the Nobel Prize this year. As this prize is not presented posthu-mously we shall never know how close he came to achiev-ing the award he coveted and many distinguished colleagues felt he deserved. He leaves Helen, his wife of 57 years, and four children.

Richard Maling Barrer, chemist, born June 16, 1910; died

Susan Gautier-Smith

Friendship and laughter

USAN Gantier-Smith, uncomplainingly borne for many years, but it brought to the surface a heart defect. complications failure, was a television producer and casting director associated with many of the key comedy programmes of this decade. She was also, as her friend and colleague David Baddiel once put it, a social centre, a person whose gift for friendship made her the pith of a creative community.

Susan - or Suz, as she was miversally known — Gau-tier-Smith was the daughter of one of England's foremos neurologists. After Wimble don High School and London's Lycée Français, she won a scholarship to King's College, Cambridge, where she read English and became involved in the dramatical world, from Footlights panto-

She began her professional career with Yorkshire Television, as a researcher on Hurray for Today, Lucinda Lambton's gung-ho guide to the architecture of Britain. The series' title said something about Suz's exuberant

Having worked on a num-ber of highly-regarded pro-grammes — which included producing a memorable documentary about the American scientist Clifford Stoll — Suz studied film at New York University. Back from America, rising generation of humorists and comic performers like Armando lannucci, David Baddiel, Steve Coogan, and Chris Morris. It is was as on shows like The Day Today. Saturday Night Armistics. The Alan Partridge Show, and Knowing Me Knowing You that Suz contributed to our

Suz was enthusiastic about television because she en-joyed enabling writers and performers to do their stuff. Generosity of spirit was her distinctive quality; that, and a curiosity about the world, ex-pressed in her travels and enthusiasm for people, trends

She cross-examined new ac quaintances about themselves which invariably led to the common ground of friendship. Thus, on the bus from the Holocaust Memorial in Jetiny old lady and concentration camp survivor seated next to her and discovered that they had mutual friends

in Wimbledon. Suz was never happier than when at the family home in Trebetherick, Cornwall, with her family and friends and, in particular, with her husband Matthew Batstone, whom she married last year. There she would match-make for straight and gay friends alike, mend broken hearts and pour out the wine, her steady blue gaze gradually acquiring a

mischievous glint In early 1996 Suz went with Matthew to Fontainebleau, where he was to study for a masters degree and an MBA. There she became pregnant with her son Patrick. The pregnancy had a beneficial effect on the chronic rheumatold arthritis, which she had 1983; died October 8 1996

During a summer trip to South Africa she suffered a heart failure and while in hospital in England, her son Patrick died unborn. On Tuesday after facing her ill-ness with clear-eyed courage,

Susan Gautier-Smith was much loved and for her many friends London life will no onger be the same. She is mourned by Matthew, by her parents Peter and Nesta, and by her sister Annie.

people who work in TV are in there for the long haul, the long slog up the career ladder to whichever floor the offices are marked "executive"; Suz was not. She just liked being around writers and perform anything but lovable, they liked being around her.

I met her on my first day Cambridge, and being myself somewhat ethnic and petit bourgeois, was initially un-certain about this robust blonde with her double-barrelled name and her no-non



ense Englishness. I say "ini tially" because that uncertainty lasted only about 10 ised that Suz was a great advertisement for a posh background — she may have been a "socialite", but only in the sense that she was incred

ibly, intensely sociable.

Most people who have a very wide circle of friends one suspects perhaps of havgenuinely curious about everyone she met and easily befriended that it simply was the truth - and I know this is often said in obituaries, but it was, as I say, the truth — that

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everyone loved her. I worked with her twice: once on the Footlights pantoill-fated Channel 4 show called Stab to the Dark. In all honesty, she wasn't a great producer — she was too interested in having fun to work that hard - but she was a great friend. It is strange, really, that Suz died of a heart condition, as I would have thought of her as someone whose heart was too big for

Susan Gautier-Smith, television producer, born September 10'

Searing image of war

ERHAPS one of the mate dilemma for any jour-most searing remem-brances of the Viet-nam war was the her agony inform the rest of Phuo running naked towards and past the camera, her naed skin meiting from her body. That camera was held by Alan Downes, who has



Charles and a young Prince William in 1984, filming In Public. In Private

Charles Wegg-Prosser

Charles Wegg-Prosser, who has died aged 86,

was to vote yes to Labour's

proposed new manifesto. Yet

when he arrived in Padding-

ton as a young solicitor in 1937 it was as a lieutenant of Sir

Oswald Mosley, leader of the British Union of Fascists.

to save her, or film on and let her agony inform the rest of literally ordering a passing American medical unit into emergency action, which probably saved her life. After that he was to serve time and again as the unsung agent of the image that was to fuel our ory of great world events.

Alan's career spanned the Television News. He joined as a messenger boy from school the odd freelance shift in 1996. As one of the last intake for ided that, as he worked for a television company, he photographer. It was his sense of contrast, shape and composition that rendered him such a special camera man when he returned to ITN

interested, involved and engaged in the event in hand. We filmed elephant seals in Antarctica together, death

From then on he was thrown into virtually every world. From Vietnam to Cyprus, from Luanda to Belfast, and from Chile to Afghanistan, Alan was there, permanently professional, occasion ally grumpy, but eternally

squad victims in El Salvador, and the burial of hunger strikers in Belfast. We walked strikers in Belfast. We walked Alan was a correct man, a He won many awards for what was to prove an historic for six weeks across war-torn warm and sensitive man, his camerawork — the most world exclusive.

A compulsion for politics

HE LAST political act of | many of its original supporters | semitism. He openly de-

had abandoned it. Not so Wegg-Prosser, more rural than

urbane cosmopolitan, and a big, assertive, restless man, who continued to be excited by

Mosley's authority, contrib-uted to the Mosleyite theoreti-

cal journal and ran for the BUF in London local elections.

After Mosley's New Party Then he witnessed the Wegg-Prosser's business turned into the BUF in 1932 BUF's repellent, violent anti-



For Saskia and Nick, his grown children, and Sheila

drafting possible housing legislation and his Praed Street offices became an early bastion of legal aid. A staunch, but not intolerant Gaitskellite, Charles Wegg-Prosser was the first attack." Charles looked at me

Eritrea, lived for a month leven a short-tempered man with the guerrillas in El Salvador, and in those days, often under fire, we would live together with our soundman as intensively as with

our own partners. In those hours, occasionally in captivity, often under fire, Alan had always had the capacity to make a calm and rational assessment of the danger. He never took risks but was always right there when it counted.

Alan was a correct man, a

but whatever the vapours, his pendable and of the highest order. He taught me and many others just about every-thing we ever knew of the craft of television and tutored us too in survival under fire. He was also a cultured man whose love of Persian carpets even the panic selling by frightened Iranian salesmen amidst Khomeini's return failed to sate.

He won many awards for

the criminal classes and also, with his wife Betty, involved himself in local affairs. He

fought Paddington South un-

successfully in the 1945, 1950, 1951 and 1955 general elections,

and was elected to Paddington

In the 1950s Wegg-Prosser

was involved in the battle

against the notorious slum

landlord Peter Rachman. He

proved indispensable too in

borough council.

calebrated with reporter Mike Nicholson. On July 20 1974, they were in northern Cyprus looking for the Turkish inva-sion force. Trundling along of petrol. Cursing and swear-ing, Nicholson got out of the car only to see to his left a vast array of parachutes fall-ing from the sky. The film sound track has Mike's voice on it shouting "can you get it Alan?" But, as ever, Alan had his camera already rolling on

to that bastion of Conserva-tism, the Law Society's ruling

His day-to-day experience in

the courts and the community

marked him out. A man of ar

cane discretion, he did once

show me a statement from a prostitute. This good woman had just chastised an ancient

High Court judge, dressed him, given him a cup of strong tea and seen him off the premises

they had feared would kill him, but brain cancer. against which he so resiliently fought, that finally

Alan Charles Downes, cameraman, born September 6, 1938; died October 9, 1995

his wife, there is a desperate

irony, that it was not the

crossfire the landmines, or

the repressive guardsman

Paddington's poor families and | Labour activist to be taken on challengingly: "Now that's humanity," he said.
He retired back to his family

home in Hereford this March. Charles never ran away from a foe or argument, and although tionary, he bore no personal animosity. His grandson, Ben, carries on the family's compulsive affair with politics and the media. He works for Labour's Peter Mandelson MP, grandson of -- Herbert Morrison.

Bitydd Harrington

Charles Wegg-Prosser, solicitor, born August 18 1910; died Octo-ber 7 1996

Birthdays

Tony Adams, footballer, 30; Janet Bloomfield, chair. CND, 43; Karlene Davis, general secretary-elect, Royal College of Midwives, 50; Peter Davis, director-general, Oflot, 55; Ted Edgar, show jumper, 61; Fiona Fullerton, actress, 40; Clare Hollingworth, journalist, 85; 62; Daniel Massey, actor, 63; Nicholas Parsons, quizmas ter, 68; Harold Pinter, play-wright, 68; Chris Tarrant, broadcaster, 50; Midge Ure, rock singer, 48; Willard White, baritone, 50.

lovely Miss DeGeneres. Stick

with the bot stuff and you've

Death Notices

Jackdaw



Euro scrapping

THE OTHER day in Brussels the British minister for agri-culture was at it again, scraping and bowing to the Euro-pean commissioners for agriculture. Rather pathetic actually! He attempted to get them to reverse an agree tentially BSE-infected cattle. The agreement was reached by his own prime minister in Florence only months ago and claimed as a victory for minister was rightly and po-litely shown the door! This kind of arrogance raises ques tions whether Britain is

tion. The Elitist group run-ning the country is what needs to be culled! I don't have a feel for how the British would vote in a referendum on membership of the European Union but am abso-lutely certain there is not one single country in the Eur-pean Union who would stand in the way of Britain leaving. The other EU members have had Britain up to the eye-balls! Of course this will never happen because Brit-ain has no plausible future outside the European Union The move to a single European currency was formal-ised by the Treaty of Euro-

pean Union. Britain negotiated an opt out clause on EMU and is not obliged to and accusations that its European partners have ulterior motives is outrageous. a common currency is part of a German conspiracy to dom-inate Europe is ludicrous and indeed offensive in the year 1996. Britain with more admi-

rals than ships in its navy is a

fifth rate power, the days of glory and Rule Britannia are

over. For themselves and everyone else, the sooner they realise the better. From British Beef, It's What for Dinner! in the Entertainment an English-language Sponish paper. Thanks, Wal-ter Plummer.

nounced his black-shirted

comrades and their psycho-

join the Labour Party. Shrewdly, Herbert Morrison,

then London's Labour Party leader, granted him a year's probation, but conversion was

eventually completed.

pathic fuhrer and applied to

History lines

ABRAHAM Lincoln was John F. Kennedy was elected to Congress in 1946. Abraham Lincoln was elected President in 1860. John F. Kennedy was elected President in 1960. Both their wives lost their

children while living in the White House. Both Presidents were shot Both Presidents were shot on a Friday. Both were shot in the head. Both were shot in the presence of their wives. Lincoln's secretary was named Kennedy, Kennedy's

Both successors were named Johnson, Andrew Johnson, who succeeded Lincoln. was born in 1808. Lyndon Johnson, who succeeded Kennedy, was born in 1908.

sassinated Lincoln, was born in 1839. Lee Harvey Oswald, who assassinated Kennedy, was born in 1939.

Booth ran from the theatre and was captured in a warehouse. Oswald ran from the warehouse and was captured in a theatre.
To cap it all off, Booth and

Oswald were assassinated be-fore their trials. Mystery or a statistical coincidence? www.birdsalldesigns-Kennedy, html

Girl Crazy

PRODUCERS of the ABC sitcom Ellen are discussing plans to have the main character. ter disclose that she's a les-bian — the New York Times. DEAR ABC: I have read that you are thinking of turning the television character Ellen into a homosexual and am wondering if you plan to make her a slutty lesbian or the type who stays at home and gardens. If you move in favour of the slut, allow me to suggest my former wife as a role mod-

el. Is that the right word? I

John Wilkes Booth, who as- | mean that if Ellen wants to be a slutty lesbian you can base her character on my former wife — all she does is tell lies and slut around. On our wedding night, I shaved off all the hair on my body, because she said it made her nervous. Then, when I was bleeding from razor nicks, guess who chose to sleep on the sofa? Now she's living the slutty high life and I bave nothing. If I provide you with my ex-wife's address, will you pay me for it? Please have your lawyers contact me as soon as possible. If my mother

answers, ask to speak to Timo-thy. DO NOT LEAVE A MES-SAGE WITH MY MOTHER, as I don't want her knowing my Timothy Dykeman, Cleve-

land, Ohio. DEAR ABC: Kudos for allowing Ellen to reflect the rich diversity of the real America, a place where differences are celebrated and frank discussions of sexuality are as common as evening prayer. Don't be fooled or intimidated by the right wing's proposed boycotts. For every rabid funda-mentalist, there are 10 free-

thinking progressives whose viewing habits cannot be altered by fear and hatred. I congratulate you for breaking new ground and feel certain your courageous decision will reward us all. One question, though: How soon after she comes out will Ellen start getting it on with other wome lege-girls ready to shed their sweaters and hop into the

sack with the stacked and



The New Yorker . . . letters

got yourself a loyal viewer. Dimitrius Sappho, New York David Sedaris considering the letters ABC might receive in the New Yorker.

Very Sad YOU WORE a blue ribbon to

protest the Communications Decency Act. * You kiss your girlfriend's home page.
* Your eyeglasses have a web
site burned in on them. You find yourself brainstorming for new subjects to

You refuse to go to a vacation spot with no electricity or phone lines. You finally do take that vacation, but only after buying a cellular modem and a

You spend half of a plane trip with your laptop on your lap...and your child in the overhead compartment.

* You refer to going to the hathroom as "downloading."

Your wife drapes a blonde wig over your monitor to

remind you of what she looks You start introducing your self as "Jim at I-I-Net dot net

dot au."
* All of your friends have an @. Your dog has its own home

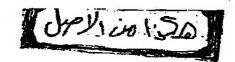
* You've already visited all the links at Yahoo and you're halfway through Lycos. You can't call your mother ... she doesn't have a modem. You check your mail. It says

"no new messages." So you check it again. "Your wife's new rule: "The computer cannot come to bed." You are so familiar with the

WWW that you find the search engines useless. Symptoms of Internet addic-tion. Discovered in the Ait.bes-Lof internet newsgroup by Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail

jackdaw@guardian.co.uk:fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Emily Sheffield



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1 566 CO A COMMAND A 18 18 14 Sals-Death Notices

Marie Control THE TANK THE

US cable systems.

The escalation in the clash

PUPERT Murdoch's News Corporation yesterday

said it was suing Time

Warner for allegedly reneging on an agreement to carry the

new Fox News Channel on its

Mark Tran in New York

of two media titans mixes elements of farce and

a permanent injunction nel, which this week joined against Time Warner's acqui- the crowded all-news TV busisition of Turner Broadcast-ing owner of Cable News Net-ald Levin, chalrman of Time ing owner of Cable News Network, which is expected to Warner, made a personal receive shareholders' approval today. The suit will allege "anti-trust violations, in- Warner disagrees.

chiding an anti-trust conspir-acy, between Time Warner and Turner to block the Fox News Channel".
But the lawsuit has little chance of success because the

deal has won Federal Trade Commission approval.

The lawsuit is utter foolishness," said Richard Parsons, president of Time

The case hinges on whether Time Warner committed it-News Corp said it will seek | self to carry Fox News Chan-

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer Telephone: 0171-239-9610 Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Customers in South-west experiment complain of threatening letters though they don't owe a penny

Gas competition in chaos

ONSUMER watchhave launched an emergency investiga-tion into a flood of ers in the South-west, amid signs that the Government's experiment with competition is descending into chaos.

The inquiry centres on cus-tomers who have received threatening letters from debt collectors acting for British Gas, even though they do not

Draconian

cuts don't

fill the bill

Outlook/ British

Energy standing

Beavis reports

SHAREHOLDERS IN British

Energy yesterday sow their shares stay above July's flota-tion price for the second day as the company confirmed plans

to cut 28 per cent of its staff or 1,460 lobs in a £100 million programme. The shares rose

on the news by 0.5p to 108p, giving them a 8p margin above the privatisation issue

price. However, the shares gave up their gains in late trading and closed at 107.8p.

power generator remained

achieved over a three-year

period, had been clearly flagged ahead of July's con-

That claim is disputed by

unions and some City ana-

lysts, who insist there was never any hint that cuts

In truth, the City had ex-

pected the company to make cost savings through some staff cuts. Indeed, it was seen as one of the only ways out of

British Energy's squeeze.

be headquarters staff and half

workers on site at reactors

(the equivalent of about 125 jobs at the five advanced gas-

cooled reactors and 52 at Sizewell B). Then, 280 will go at Scottish Nuclear, with 85

jobs at the Peel Park head-

would be so draconian.

troversial sell-off.

ESPITE yesterday's

turing announce-

ment, the nuclear

fixed in a familiar place. It is company is "highly geared operationally". They were cartainty.

The job-cutting plans met dividend could be cut if stations underperformed, or pool tion from unions and opposition parties on both sides of the border, and nuclear in-

dustry inspectors warned they could block the cuts if safety were compromised.

The company claimed that the cuts, which will save £50 no profits before then), they are implicate the channel by

million a year and will be are unlikely to be cheered by

still. Simon

new suppliers when the do-mestic gas market in the region was opened up to competition earlier this year. Consumer groups say they are deeply concerned about

the situation which they blame on the inadequacies of British Gas's computer

Systems.
The letters — threatening court action and warning of enforcement procedures are said to have frightened hundreds of customers who switched from British Gas when homes in Devon, Corn-wall and Somerset became owe the company a penny.

The customers — many of the test-bed for gas market dethem elderly — are among regulation in April.

wholesale electricity price of the day. That price is set by other types of stations which run in the middle of the merit

order, or when demand peaks. While pool prices are high and reactors are run-

The trouble is that the reactors have had a troubled oper-

ating record, and pool prices

are expected to tumble dra-matically in the next three years as competition in the

generation market builds up. Yesterday's announcement therefore leaves British Ener-

gy standing still, affectively balancing cost savings against falling revenues.

But only British Energy can keep its stations ticking

over smoothly. But will the

massive staff reductions cut technical expertise at the

stations and make unplanned

outages both more frequent and more long-lasting? Shareholders know that the

yesterday's announcement.

Dr Hawley dismissed claims that the cuts were a sop to

shareholders as "rubbish". In-

stead they were "to ensure we

are competitive with other

forms of generation in the UK". He denied that they

would affect the company

ability to maintain current high levels of output, or even

to increase them marginally.

The first hurdle will be to convince the Nuclear Installa-

tions inspectorate that the

Then the options get more tricky. One obvious move — clearly in the back of some

directors' minds - is to sort

out the chaotic corporate

structure and bring all the

reactors under one opera-tional command rather than

As the current structure is

under two subsidiaries.

quarters in East Kilbride and entirely politically motivated designed to reassure Scotland that there has not been

of the border.

Yet the City remains unimate an English takeover — such a such a blobby sension.

pressed: Nuclear power stations make money by running at as high an output as Energy back in the thick of

possible and collecting the controversy and uncertainty.

Murdoch to sue in clash

of the cable news titans

cuts are safe.

ning well, cash pours in.

It is understood that about 450 complaints have been received by the London and Plymouth offices of the Gas Company Co Consumers Council

lan Powe, director of the Gas Consumers Council, told the Guardian last night: "We think there is a serious problem with British Gas systems over this and we are in urgent discussions with Ofgas. It seems the systems are not able to cope with customer transfer and that has implica-tions for public confidence in the competitive market."
News of the mounting chaos in the South-west could

Next Monday she is expected to widen the Monopolies and Mergers inquiry into BC's pipeline and exploration business, TransCo, to include not only disputed price con-trols but also alleged cross-Among those threatene with court action was Frank

fireman from Torquay, who changed to Swebgas on the day the new competitive mar-ket opened. not come at a worst time for He settled his bill on April British Gas, which is already 23 before going on holiday

because of previous over-estimates on his account.

Earlier this week he and his wife received a letter from the Stockport-based firm Moorcroft Debt Recovery which said it had been instructed by British Gas to col-lect an overdue debt of £62.58. The letter warned it was essential to settle the debt without delay. Failure to con-

tact the company might result in a summons being issued without further notice. "I am hopping mad," Mr Knott said last night, "If an

the devil was going on."

Another customer to receive a surprise debt collection notice from Moorcroft was Margaret West, a 92-year-old great grandmother from St Austell, who also changed her supplier to Swebgas and is now being pursued for 1184.10

She says that despite com plaining about an incorrect meter reading when her final bill arrived in mid-July, she heard nothing from British Gas until the debt collector's

Eddie walks the euro tightrope



Alex Brummer

cult for the Governor of the George, to be further away from the ferment of Blackpool and Bournemouth, Yet as first Labour and now the Tories work themselves into a lather about the single currency, it is Mr George, currently marching across the Himalayas, whose name is on everyone's lips. Last week Mr George had reportedly delivered a private message to the Labour leader. Tony Blair, advising him that delay would be the best policy.

Then in Bournemouth the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, claimed the Bank's support for the view that it would be wrong to rule out participation in monetary union now, as the Eurosceptics are demanding.

The Bank is in a curlous position. On paper at least it is in its interests to support EMU, since a pre-condition of adopting the euro would be an independent central bank for the United Kingdom — a long cherished position. Moreover, as the de facto leader of the City, Mr George has more knowledge and con-cern about technical issues such as the partial exclusion of Britain from the new EMU clearing system, Target —

than almost anyone else. It is to his credit therefore that he refuses to pander to Euro-enthusiasm. His posi-tion is that EMU has to be an economic not a political exercise and it is economic con-vergence which should determine membership. Neither Mr Blair nor the Tories should have much difficulty is that Mr George's time-frame is rather different from Mr Major's and others who act as if the decision on the first wave could wait until 1999. The Bank's view is that an assessment will have to be made on whether economies including Britain's, are sufficiently converged by late 1997. Beyond that date, Britain will miss the first wave.

Such a decision would be extremely daunting for a new prime minister a few months roar from the Eurosceptics under the position engineered by John Major, Kenneth Clarke and Mr Rifkind, the Tories - if convergence has taken place — might find it harder to resist the premier

Taxing needs

THE IFS/Goldman Sachs green budget (details page 32) leaves no doubt that cutting taxes in November's budget would be dangerous, given Britain's prospecfind the cash for income tax cuts by rolling back public

That is an obvious way ahead. But Mr Clarke has other weapons if he wants to build a tax-cutting war chest. The clampdown on tax privi-leges for special dividends on share buybacks, which will save the Treasury £400 million in a full year, provides a start. Another possibility being widely discussed is a doubling of the modest 2.5 per cent insurance premium tax imposed by Norman Lamont in his notorious tax raising would still leave it at only 5 per cent of premium income (against the VAT rates charged across the European Union) and raise £700 million.

Such an increase is certain to be vociferously opposed by the insurance industry. The Government would, however, point out that with greater efficiency — of the kind brought to the industry by Direct Line — the premium tax could be easily absorbed. Moreover, the Government is already proposing to gift huge new income streams to the insurance companies through health care and pension changes and it would be better for them if they didn't

It would be unwise to under estimate the guile of a Chancel-lor determined to produce income tax cuts, without worsening public borrowing.

Golden goal

RITISH Telecom's plan to break into the Ger-man telecom market, the largest and most lucrative in Europe, has come unstuck in a big way. The decision by the utilities group RWE to de-sert to the Cable & Wireless camp has blown a hole in BT's German strategy.

The original plan to bring RWE into the BT partnership with Viag, announced in Feb ruary, seemed a marriage à trois made in heaven. The two German partners' respective strengths provided the joint venture with almost na-

Now BT and Vlag have to find a new partner with fibre Germany with capacity to spare and funds to invest. The pool of potential part-

ners has almost dried up as other international telecom groups with an eye on the German market have teamed up with local firms.

BT says its priority is to nesotiate access to more fibre networks to give its joint ven-ture a proper backbone net-work covering most of the country. But equally impor-tant will be finding someone den. BT and Viag said that about £600 million would have to be invested in their joint venture over 10 years. But that was before the two de-cided to bid for Germany's fourth mobile phone licence. If they win the bidding, the investment required could easily rise to about £1.6 billion.

BT has an ambitious worldwide expansion plan, particularly in Europe and the Far East. Any extra spending in suggests that Mr Clarke will curb its ambitions elsewhere.

The portfolio up for sale comprises 19 provincial

County Hotels banner and a

further six under the Moat

House brand: they include the Burnham Beeches Hotel in

Buckinghamshire, which was home to the England football

championships.

Another hotelier to have

looked at the package ex-

pressed surprise at the price being mooted. "Anything

over £100 million would rep-

resent an exceptional price

for Queens Moat. I'd have

ested, though the Adams offer

is thought to be the highest.

The management buyout

mooted in April is not

And the cost-savings outlined by chief executive Robert After that British Energy Hawley are bigger than many watchers had anticipated. now look at more conven must look to what it can do to tional ways of returning cash increase cost savings. In the Some 1,200 jobs will go at short term, there will be Nuclear Electric, the compa-ny's subsidiary in England and Wales, of which half will other, more minor savings.

EUTERS yesterday shrugged off Kenneth Clarke's surprise rule changes on share buybacks and insisted that it still hopes to return part of its £860 million cash pile to shareholders.
The media group, which
yesterday shelved plans to
return cash to shareholders through a buyback and special bonus dividend, said it was hopeful of finding a way around the new rule. However, store chain Allders, which was hoping to

win approval for a share con-solidation at its extraordi-

nary meeting today, last night abandoned its plans.

On Tuesday, in a move widely believed to be timed to stop the Reuters agency winning approval for its 2613 million buyback deal, the Chancellor of the Exchequer scrapped tax benefits linked to some share buyback and

special dividend schemes. But yesterday Reuters chief executive Peter Job said the company still hoped to make a payout to its shareholders, and would wait until after the Finance Bill before deciding what steps to take next. He added: "It is necessary for some way to be found in

which cash can be given out to shareholders without excessive problems, and no doubt this will happen in due

to shareholders, such as in the form of an ordinary special dividend, with the em-phasis being to return the cash in a way that would not its resolutions returning cash

Great strides . . . a worker operates a winch to haul up a huge pair of American Lee jeans in front of a Beijing shopping centre. The jeans, said to be the world's largest, are as tall as 10-storey building

Reuters unfazed by Clarke attack

make it liable to tax.

Mr Job went on: "The company doesn't need the cash, and should be able to return it to shareholders in a tax-neutral way. If we have to keep it, then there's pressure to pay regular dividends or to acquire other companies, which may not be our actual com-mercial priority."

According to City analysts, Reuters is accumulating cash at the rate of £300 million but,

It is thought Reuters may | sitions in the new media sec tor earlier this year, is not under pressure to make any substantial acquisitions. Meanwhile, Reuters share-

to shareholders indefinitely giving Mr Job and his coleagues time to thrash out ar alternative strategy. Reuters 766%p on the news.

Elsewhere, Allders told shareholders that, as intended, it would be proposing payment of a special dividend of 46p — worth a total of £50 million — at its extraordinary meeting today, but without a previously planned share

Revenue taxed over 'unhelpful insensitivity'

Watchdog attacks overbearing staff and predicts big rise in complaints when self-assessment is introduced

lan Wylie

C TAFF at the Inland Sevenue and Customs & Excise were yesterday accused of "incompetence, insensitivity and indifference" by a Government watchdog who warns of a steep rise in complaints when the new system of self-assessment for tax is introduced.

In her annual report, the

adjudicator Elizabeth

complaints about the Contributions Agency, said she had seen too many exam-ples of unhelpfulness, overbearing behaviour and poor communication among staff at the three

During 1995/96, Ms Filkin received 3,267 complaints - an increase of 27 per cent on the previous year, mainly because of the adjudicator's new responsibilities for looking at com-plaints about Customs & Filkin, who also handles Excise and the Contribution and fear.

tions Agency. In 50 per cent of complaints, Ms Filkin found either wholly or partly in favour of the The largest single com-

pensation payment was £28,490, made by the Inland Revenue following a complaint that it had conducted the investigation of a small business improperly. The report praises the In-land Revenue for improv-

ing the way it handles complaints and deals with taxpayers, but the adjudi-cator said she had seen some "very poor work" by the Revenue where taxpayers had faced huge bills, been caused unnecessary work and suffered frustra-

nation Office Agency for censure, saying she had seen little improvement in the quality of its com-plaints handling over the

last year. A spokesman later conceded that the adjudicator's office was gearing up for a surge of complaints about self-assessment by reviewing staffing requirements and enrolling employees on self-assessment training

"Anything that is new and affects nine million people is bound to be a source of error and com-plaints," he said. "We would prefer to anticipate the response now, rather

Surprise bidder for **Queens Moat hotels**

Dominie Walsh

FLEDGLING Scottish hotel company has emerged as a surprise front-runner to buy the 25 hotels — including the England team's HQ during Euro 96 — put up for sale by Queens Moat Houses in April, with a price tag of more than £100 million Glasgow-based Adams

Hotels, with just two hotels, is believed to have offered as much as £110 million for the package, with funding from Queens Moat, which is selling the hotels to reduce its £1 billion debt mountains.

declined to comment on the deal. However, Adams Hotels director, Michael Thompson, said: "We are discussing it."

thought to have materialised.

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS Cyprus 0.7045 Finland 7.0620 Israel 4.98

Italy 2,325 Singapore 2.15
Murm 0.5485 South Airice 6.88
Netherlands 2 6040
New Zealand 2.20
Norway 9,90
Portugal 235.60
Turkey 140,017 Saurii Arabia 5.83 USA 1.5276



BT's milch-cow soured by partner deserting to C&W

Nicholas Bannister Technology Editor

RITISH Telecom suffered a substantial blow to its European expansion ambitions yesterday when one of its two German partners switched sides to join up with rival Cable & Wireless.

Utilities group RWE said it had decided not to participate in the telecom venture set up by BT and Viag, another utilities group, after a disagree-ment on policy.

It revealed that it is now concluding negotiations with C&W and Veba, yet another utility, on "taking a new ditelecommunications market". The two sides fell out over how, if they won the licence, they would run Germany's

fourth mobile phone network. Licence applications must be made within the next week. In February RWE signed a letter of intent to join Viag Interkom — the telecom company set up by Viag and BT. But the talks to finalise the

deal recently turned sour. RWE, with a 4,000km fibreoptic network in northern Germany, would have doubled the size of Viag Interkom's backbone network.

Viag Interkom is now left with a network covering just 40 per cent of the population, largely in southern Germany.

A BT spokesman said the

party to replace RWE

He said BT and Viag wanted to create an inte-grated business offering landline and mobile services on a single network, whereas RWE was pushing for the more costly option of a stand-alone mobile business.

RWE's move into the C&W camp is all the more galling for BT as it failed to bring off a £33 billion merger with C&W earlier this year.
C&W and Veba have al-

ready set up Vebacom to spearhead their assault on the German telecom market, which is due to be opened to full competition by 1998. Vebacom and RWE are

planning to keep the network and services sides of the business apart. RWE, which is planning to invest about DM2.5 billion, will end end up work company. Vehacom will control the services side. which will include any mo-bile phone operations. A separate management company owned by the three parent groups will co-ordinate strat-

egy and spending.
Under the new structure,
no new cash will be needed from C&W for the next four or five years.

state-owned telecom monopoly, is due to be privatised cent stake in the company is to be sold to investors for

yesterday to have found interest among 2.5 million poten-

BT and Ving had always wanted to bring in a third partner to spread the cost of setting up a business capable Telekom. They had originally would have to be invested but the total investment could rise to £1.6 billion if they win the licence for the £2 mobile

City analysts said that a replacement for RWE would be hard to find. But Richard Jones, telecom specialist at Yamaichi, suggested that in-dustrial groups Daimler-Benz and Thyssen may be possible partners. Thyssen failed to win the right to use the fibreoptic network alongside Ger many's motorways.

RWE was a fairly recent addi-tion and it is far better that they fall out now, rather than in 1996, when things hot up,"

Recent clarification of the regulatory regime will make it easier for Viag Interkom to negotiate agreements to use other operators' networks. RWE has valuable infrastructure in the German tele-

tinuing talks with the company to gain access to it. are confident some agreement can be reached," he added.

Former BET director backs John Clark's £6m compensation claim



John Clark (above), former BET chief executive, claiming for earnings loss after takeover, backed by Lord Tebbit

Tebbit gets on his bike to attack cult of ageism

ORD Tebbit yesterday took time off from the Tory conference in Bournemouth to attack the "cult of ageism" which he admitted made it difficult for anyone over 55 to find a

Lord Tebbit, who once famously told the unem-ployed to get on their bikes and look for work, told the High Court: "I suffer from it myself, being 65. It isn't fashionable these deve to an fashionable these days to appoint chief executives who are in their upper 50s."

Lord Tebbit's comments

came as he gave evidence for John Clark, former chief executive of services group BET, who is claiming over £6 million in compen-sation for loss of earnings after BET's £2.1 billion takeover by Rentokil Ini-tial earlier this year.

son-executive director of

an "old school tie" culture

in the world of commerce. Responding to American-born Mr Clark's QC, Brian Langstaff, Lord Tebbit said: "One assesses people on their work. Their reputation is normally public, and there is not an old school network of people fixing jobs at cocktail parties and

dinner parties."

Lord Tebbit also told the court that following its takeover of BET, Rentokil had "demanded" Mr

'It isn't fashionable these days to appoint chief executives who are in their

previously attacked the Clark's removal from of-way Rentokii "got rid" of fice, without seeking any Mr Clark, denied there was

He claimed Rentokil's chief executive, Sir Clive Thompson, had "threatened personal legal action" against any BET board member who had not sup-ported a motion to remove Mr Clark from office. However, Andrew Ho-

garth, Rentokil's QC, sug-gested that Mr Clark had 'extremely influential" friends who could recommend him to others, and said Rentokil did not accept Lord Tebbit's version of Mr Clark's dismissel. Mr Clark is suing for un

fair dismissal, and is claiming three year's wages, bo-nus payments and benefits in lieu of notice worth over

Rentokil refuses to pay compensation for the full three years, claiming that Mr Clark could have got another job to mitigate his



on to BT's BSkyB deal Nicholau Stambeter

Cable firm

sets Oftel

OFTEL, the telecom watch-dog, is investigating an alliance struck between British Telecom and satellite broadcaster BSkvB.

A cable company, believed to be General Cable, has com-plained to Oftel about the deal, announced by BT at the end of last month. Under the agreement, mem bers of BT's Friends & Family discount scheme who sign up with BSkyB get a special offer

local BT calls every weekend A BT spokesman said that the BSkyB deal was no different to a range of other affinity deals it has done with compa nies or brands, such as Brit-

ish Airways, Sainsbury, Pal dog foods and Flora margarine, He said the £39.60 of free local calls was paid to BT by BSkyB. 'BT is not favouring one group of customers over another," he said.

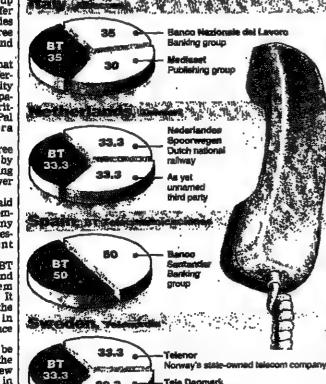
An Offel spokeswoman said that it had received a com-plaint from a cable company which it was obliged to inves tigate under the present

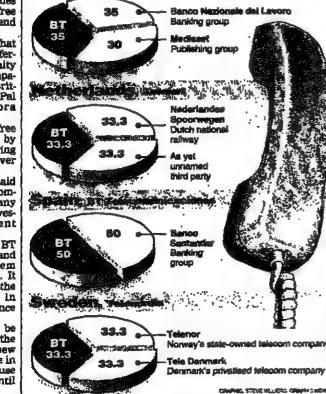
regulations.
The watchdog had asked BT for details of the scheme, and expected to receive them within the next few days. It would then see whether the telecoms company was in breach of any of its licence

conditions. However, Oftel will not be checking to see whether the Issue comes within the new catch-all fair trading clause in BT's licence, since the clause does not come into effect until

BT's connections









Lord Tebbit, a former upper 50s'

EC queries Alitalia aid

Mark Milger

HE European Commis-sion is to investigate the Italian government's plans to pump 1.5 trillion lire (\$640 million) into the alling

lag carrier, Alitalia. The investigation will focus on whether the cash injection amounts to a commercial investment or whether it is ille-

Alitalia needs the money because it is heavily in the red. with a run of losses stretching back several years. Analysts suggest that the airline will clock up substantial number of state-owned airlines in recent years, including the European airline market.

Underside

Dan Atkinson

AJ Bagri was in fight-ing form at the Lon-don Metal Exchange's

"epicentre of the entire globe's metal industry" —

THE sung froid of our fund managers is

"The Commission is going to analyse our plan. It would not be appropriate to

The Italian authorities. however, will be hoping that the package, which will also include substantial outside investment, can satisfy the Commission. Alitalia's strategy, which is designed to get it back into the black in 1997, also includes plans to cut costs and jobs over the next

two years.
The Commission has al-

mentioned affairs may bave caused a "loss of cred-

ibility and public confi-

deuce". That their own houses may not be in order would seem to have wor-

SHE can fly, sail, dive, do just about anything, but can the modern woman execute a major fraud? No, according

to Martin Kenney, solicitor

and president of Inter-claim, the new Dublin-

with partner Eugene Becker, carries an intrigu-ing footnote: "The use of the appellations him and he

... is not coincidental. In

the authors' circumnavigations in pursuit of miscre

ants, we have yet to find, address or receive instruc-

HE'S SLEEPING

ried none of them.

Yesterday an Alitalia ing Air France, Greece's spokesman declined to com-ment on the Commission's Iberia, despite criticism from Olympic Airways and Spain's Iberia, despite criticism from ever, the Alitalia proposals could face a bumpy ride from

Yesterday the Commission was quoted as saying that it "doesn't share the Italian argument that the proposed in-jection of capital is the action of any ordinary market investor and doesn't constitute a state aid".

In addition to questioning the possibility of illegal aid, officials are said to wonder whether or not the Alitalia

culty of outperforming was the alleged perpetrator benchmarks", and there was concern that the aboveraged lady swindlers should complain to Inter-claim's London representative, handling its share issue, on 0171-734 7353.
Meanwhile, typists at the SPO can bid farewell to the drag of having to insert "or she" every other line.

Swoman can't do is jazz up a (zzzz) report on Nordic retailing. A blonde in a red mini-dress, with matching knee-high boots, pouts from the cover of SBC Warburg's latest analysis of Scandinavia's shopping industry. Beneath her, the report declares: "Attractive potentials are still outstanding" (geddit?). One problem: "to still a property of the standing" (geddit?). problem: it's still a report on Nordic retailing.

WARM Walesian wel-Come for auto-compo-neuts maker Traltec, spending 27.3 million on a factory at Welshpool. OK, the firm's Japanese, as is most of the capital equipnent (the rest comes from Austria). The workers? Hard to believe, but they may well be Made in Britain.

HINK-tankers at Demos will find all that deep thought less of a strain from the new year, we understand. A wealthy we uncerstand. A weathly supporter is laying on a pad in the south of France to which the cerebral ones can retreat for brainstorming sessions, conferences and the like, rather as rock hands used to hole up for the winter in Welsh cot-tages to rough out their next LP. Who is the benze factor? On this topic Demos

News in brief

Inchcape subsidiary sold for £380m

INCHCAPE, the marketing and distribution group, yesterday nailed down one of the key planks of its ambitious restructuring plan with the £380 million sale of its Testing Services subsidiary to Charterbouse Development Capital. The sale price was significantly higher than analysts had expected. Stuart Simpson, a Charterhouse director, said: "We believed

that is justified by the group's prospects and current trading."

The sale will produced a profit of £180 million and is expected to be completed early next month. The cash will be used to reduce the Inchcape group's debt, which stood at £509.8 million

at the end of June. at the end of June.

Philip Cushing, inchcape's chief executive, defended the sale of such a successful subsidiary, the world's largest non-automotive testing organisation employing 7000 people worldwide, by stressing that the group was being focused on its core activities of marketing and motor distribution. The second blg part of Inchcape's restructuring is expected to be the demerger of its insurance division, Bain Hogg. — Pauline Springett

Anger at Olivetti board ban

FOREIGN shareholders in Italy's Olivetti yesterday reacted angrily to news that the company would not allow them to nominate a board representative. "We're not giving up on it and we will continue to pursue them," said a London fund manager with a ignificant stake in the company.

The company had promised to bring in two non-executive

the company had promised to bring in two non-executive directors to represent outside shareholders, but Dario Trevisan, the Milan lawyer the foreign institutions planned to nominate, yesterday confirmed Olivetti had not asked him to join. Olivetti yesterday refused to comment on reports that NEC and Sony had formally expressed interest in acquiring its troubled computer making subsidiary which it last week said it would sell by the end of this year. — John Glover in Milan

Hull phone company expands

KINGSTON Communications, the unique municipally-owned kings 10 in Communications, the unique municipally-owned telecommunications group, will operate outside the Hull area for the first time in its 92-year history following the £25.3 million buyout of Yorkshire Electricity's 50 per cent stake in Torch Telecom, completed yesterday.

Torch, an advanced business telecommunications network operator for Yorkshire and Humberside, was established as a joint venture between the two communications in 1994. The commany

operator for Yorkshire and Humberside, was established as a joint venture between the two companies in 1994. The company, which handles around 10 million calls a month, will continue to operate as an independent company within the Kingston group, with its own licence and board of directors. Yorkshire Electricity has decided to leave the telecommunications market to concentrate on its core energy business. — Martyn Halsall

Tractors go to market

NEW Holland, one of the world's biggest tractor and combine harvest makers, announced plans for a flotation on the New York stock exchange valuing it at over \$3.4 billion (£2.3 billion). New Holland, which accounts for one in every five tractors and one in every six combine harvesters sold worldwide, has its head office in Britain and employs over 2.400 people in the UK.

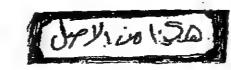
The company, which was created in 1991 when Fiat snapped up Ford New Holland and merged it with its Fiat Geotech agricultural equipment division, will remain 69 per cent-owned by Fiat after the flotation.

In King

South Africans buy UK broker

CARR Sheppards, the British stockbroker with more than £25 billion of funds under management, is to be bought by South Africa's Investec Bank for an undisclosed sum. The firm is owned by Banque Indosuez, which decided to offload Carr Sheppards following a strategic review last year. The stockbroker has a client hase of about 8,000 and employs more than 200 staff in London. Farnham and Reigate. The move, which is expected to be scaled by the end of the year, will boost Invester's assets under management or advice to stone them on billion read (CT2 billion). management or advice to more than 90 billion rand (£13 billion).

Cecil ce











William Fotheringham

RAEME OBREE.

the former world

champion, has launched a bitter attack on cycling's govern-

ing body, the International

Cycling Union, after its de-

cision to ban the aerody-

namic position known as

"Superman" devised by him last year.

world track pursuit cham-pionship using the position,

where the cyclist holds his

arms out in front of his face, effectively removing

them from the aerodynamic

equation. The style was widely adopted to set Olym-

2.00 IRATY PRANCIAL COLLECTIONS CON

TOP PORM TIPS: Believe Boy 8, Great Overlon?

115 GREAT ONATION (41) (D) L Gumari 9-5
033 GREAT CHATTON (45) (D) R Hamon 9-0
14342 BOLERO BOY (19) M W Sesterby 9-0
90002 POOT BATTALLON (87) P Holisched 8-11
15 MAYFALE (46) P Colo 8-9
SODELK J Helberton 8-3

2.30 ECONOMICTORS MADDES STAKES 3YO IN 27 057th C8,210 BOMANEA PEAS Mrs J Cecil B-0

ZI MULTICOLOURED (45) (6F) M Stoke 9-0

SESS PER TALK (40) H Cecil B-0

D SACRED LOCAL (25) G Hermond B-0

D Microso Lotter (25) B Charlton 9-0

STRICTSERV (13) B Charlton 9-0

SIMMICRIED (22) J Gooden 8-9

ASC CRAND STAR (14) G Wang 8-9

SUPUR (16) D Noriey 8-9

S SUPUR (16) D Noriey 8-9

TOP PORSE TOPS: Multicoloured S, Enriched 7, Pep Talk 6 (1986: Metakabber 3 9 0 L Delbyr ovens (J Gooden) 8 rid

7 retingers TOP PORMS TIPS: Yerzen B, Star Of Zikal 7

3.00 ALLED DUREAR RATED HANDICAP 61 214/6 25,053

60yds, Gd-SRL

the corresponding rose

Betting: 7-4 Botero Boy, 5-2 Greet Ovedon, 8-2 Maytair, 5-1 Foot Battation, 8-1 Berytlium, 25-1 Sodelit.

POSM GUISDE - MOLETIO DOUT, O'RE O'REGIONAL PER INSTRUM. 3-1 FIRST BERMANNE, 2-1 SECRETARY BUTTER PROSECUTION OF THE PROPERTY CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY CONTROL HELD BY BLUES CURRENT O'NATIONS HELD IN A CONTROL O'NATIONS HELD IN THE STORE AND STREET O'NATIONS HELD IN THE STREET O'NATIONS HELD IN THE STREET O'NATIONS AND A CONTROL OF THE STREET ON THE ST

Bettings 9-4 Pap Tels, 5-2 Multicoloures, 3-1 Enriched, 5-1 Grand Splandour, 14-1 Turni, Sukd.

PORM GUNDE - PEP TALKS Chased leaders, stayed on same pact fine) 21, 3rd of 10, bin 45t, to Triple Leap

2), Gd-Fm). Opanio prilabiliocitis Led har side 2) out, no chance with winner, bin 5% by Neuzooq (Haydock 1 in 2 12) yts.

GG). SUPPUP: Slowly gwgy, soon recovered, no entire finel furlong, 6th of 15, bin SI, to Dewewin (Nottingham 1s Styde, Gd-Pro).

1990: III Ned 8 9 0 L Chermoni. 4-1 (III Centeche) 6 rate Battings 5-2 Ster Of Zizzal, 3-1 Verteen, 5-2 Aericon Jane, 6-1 Catestial Key, Highborn, 8-1 Walton Americal 20-1 Printo Lara.

POSE GARDE - STAR OF ZHZAL; Made verteally all, ridden out, best hagasgrap 11 (Epson 1m 114yds hop, Gd-Fm).

VENUZING Chased for 51, one pace, 3rd of 8, bin 51, to Cartre Staffs (Kengaton Im, Gd).

ASSESSED JANUS Hot cleer run from over 25 out, westerned Staff burlong. Tota of 18, bin 81, to Fasefully (Assot 1m hop, Gd-Fes).

MOyes, Get-For).

PROPER Let end three out, First of 26, bin 191, to Decurated Hero, CELESTIAL KEY lest (Ascer 7 Inc., Get-For).

in hep, del-Pei, inside Boet tertong, best Madfy Sharp 11 (Newmarket 71 Rcp, Gd-Frii) With Mindiguese Lea inside Boet tertong, best Madfy Sharp 11 (Newmarket 71 Rcp, Gd-Frii) WIELTON ARRENAL I New up, Ridden over 11 auf, soon laded, Sh ol 7, bu 101, to Green Park

3.30 SASSIL LYONS BRITISDAY CLASSING STAKES 1st 21 95yds 25,316

40-34 SASHA LYONG SHITSDAY CARBING STAKES IN 2 of 401 SISTEM SAZARD A GUIDES (50) (b) D Nicholis 8-8-4 (52) AT TIMES (50) (b) D Nicholis 8-8-4 (52) AT TIMES (50) AT TIMES (40) A 52-54 TIME PART SIZ (103) Nicholis 1000 Nicholis

Obree won last year's

subsidian 380m Micon.

SET ALL 100 176-6-BANGET . A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH 多種ない。 State Charles **建设**。在1867 。

Section 18 1 第 2017 元 atain 41.5 A A STATE OF Manager 1 Bearing -- 2 (re: Sept the Secretary MAD ... empany expant

The second Age -12 PASE VALUE OF **最低级的** 是WAS ENTo market

The second A Property of A SECTION . and the same of th

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ne buy UK broke A CONTRACTOR



Cecil century

ENRY CECIL landed his 100 with two Nottingham wins yesterday — Fascinating Rhythm and Torremolinos. Both the Newmarket trainer's winners were ridden by Pat Eddery, who also scored on Castan.



Bettings 5-2 Hazard A Guess, 7-2 Ten Past Six, 5-1 Course, 6-1 Northern Past, 7-1 Ouist Arch, 6-1 Lail The Lucky. PORM GUIDES - HAZARD A GUISDRO Hold up, not other run films 21, 9th of 16, bin 71, to Amrek Ajeeb (York 1m. 27 Reyds hop, Gd).
TEST PAST SUCC Held up, effort over 26 cat, tested over 25 cat, test of 6, bin 211, to Canton Vesture (Memorable 1m of 69) of 6, pp. fm.
CZASBAS Prominent until two out, 15 cn of 17, bin 15, to Autumn Cover (Goodwood 1m 11 trop, Gd-Fm),
ROCKTHESIA PASIA Arways in rater, 188 of 19, bin 25, to Culting (Concenter 77 bop, Gd-Fm),
COURST ASTOCIA Lad over 17 out until close home, 3nd of 15, bin 51, to Evidence in Chief (Newsambet 1m 4) olaimer, Go-Finj. Last THE LACKYh Lod over 21 out, soon heeded, ôth ol 15, box 111, to Sugar hills (Fispon 1m 41 60yda bcp, Stj. 4.00 DESEM NOWARDS CUP INVESTMENT HANDICAP) 270 71 2025-6. CA,982 O SSEEM NOWARDS CUP (NURSERIY HANDICAP) 270

10402 PLETCHER (31) P Cole 9-7

514 SHEMBAZU (91) L Gosden 9-3

514 SHEMBAZU (91) L Gosden 9-3

514 SHE POMINASTROME (60) B HIRE 6-2

BEST ROMPREMATE STAYUT (21) C British 9-1

151303 PROFITEERIN SCHI (14) T Mills 9-6

308110 GENERAL'S STAYE (25) (CO) M STOME 8-13

06303 SHARADI (21) D Moriey 9-8

60102 LOWE HAS MO PRIDE (14) R HINDICAP 8-7

52007 HEPRIAL OR MERTING (12) (7) (7) J Berry 8-7

52022 SANDHARDERALAMI (25) (UF) M WEISHICKY 8-7

5203 PRINCAL DAMCER (20) (WHIS 8-1

405 EJONNAY ROMERS (5-9) M WEISHIC 1-10

1655 AUCTION HALL (16) M Bell 7-10

1655 AUCTION HALL (16) M Bell 7-10

1655 AUCTION HALL (16) M Bell 7-10

TOP PORM TIPS: Stitemen 10, General Star 5, Pletcher 7 1995: West-A-Minute 9 3 L Dollor 13-2 (A Malianiana) Buttings 11-4 Snicezu. 6-1 Fistcher, General Star, 8-1 Sandbaggedegeis, Northern Sun, 10-1 Mr Bombastique, Princess Topaz. PORTIN GALENTE - SHEMBAZUM HEADWAY halfway, richten and besten 2f dut, 4th of 6, bin 101, to Reconditie (Normarket 71, Gd-Fm).

PLETCRISER Held up, headway over 3t out, edged left finel furiong, rap on, bin 11 by Sheer Faces (Setth 1m hop, Gd-Fm).

SANDBAGGEDAGABIE Led over 25 out with furnishing the furnishing control of the fu SHA SAME Ran on one pace, 3rd of 10, bin 41, in Bolid Oriental (Goodwood 1m http., Gd-Fm). BAST10CHE: Chesad leaders, ridden 31 dul, soon besten, last of 4, bin 151, to Bathare (Newmarks) 7f. (3d-Fm). PCASICESS TOPAZ: Tracked leaders, effort 3f out, not quicken final furlong, 5rd of 17, bin 3t, to Al Azher (Dongster Im hop, Gd-Fm).

O BADGER HILL APPRENTICE HAMDICAP 1 = 31 195yde €7

0-4000 DYREAMS SHID (30) (D) P Bowen 8-10-0

03222 VOR A PRESENTER (4) (SF) M Tompkins 4-9-10

2013-30 KALONI (22) (D) W Bowy 5-9-9

5324-1 TRELEY (84) (D) P Cols 3-9-6

5324-1 TRELEY (84) (D) P Cols 3-9-6

0-2251 AMADOCR (5) (Sib ex) (0) P Microll 3-9-5

30-663 HOME COUNTRIES (S5) D Molist 7-9-4

1112:10-CLARRESTMAR (302) M Tompkins 4-9-2

30-604 KARSERA (34) Denys Smith 3-9-2

30-604 KARSERA (34) Denys Smith 3-9-2

151511 KRISTAL SHEEZE (5) (35) ex) (D) W Multi-4-12

101121 (3.0W FORTER (19) (D) I Montagon Hill 6-9-10

101502 CLARREST DAMICER (23) Andrew Turnell 5-9-10

20015 DOMBLE SEIGH (19) (D) I Montagon Hill 6-9-10

20015 DOMBLE SEIGH (19) (D) I Smith 6-9-10

20015 DAMPHR (19) (D) I Smith 6-9-10

20016 DAMPHR (19) (D) I Smith 6-9-10

20017 DAMPHR (20) (D) W Musson 3-7-10 R C-Spelcher (7) 2 R Maller (3) 9 P Pessey 16 David O'Nell (7) 2

1996: Ayunii 4 9 3 A Daly 5-1 (3 Williams) 21 run Betting: 8-1 Yoke Premiere, 3-1 Ashover, 10-1 Krister Bresze, Mad Militari, 12-1 Gold Desire, Amadou Dauphin, Glow Forum, El Bardedor. PORMS GUIDDE - WOLLA PRESENTED Led over 21 out until loside final furforg, bits 11 by Sugar Mill (Haydock fin 41 hcs, Sig.

STAL BREEZE Headway three out, led over 11 out, ren on well, best Tulkulab Bede 30 (Brighton 1m 2 http. (Gd) MAD MILITANTO Held up, headway & out, skeyed on one pace, 4th cl 9, bin 350, to Tessasjoe (Catherick Tes 4) hop, Gd-Fm). GOLD DESERE Headway over 2 out, one pace final furlang, 5m at 17, bsi 4L to Cuben Reel (Sandown 1m 2 app hop, Gd-Frit). ANIADOURA Led ctose home, best Soldier Mak a head (Brighton 1st 4 hop, Gd).

 John Gosden-trained Decorated Hero, fourth of Dettori's seven winners in a day at Ascot last month, will be ridden by Thierry Jarnet in today's one-mile Prix Eugene de Savoie at Longchamp. He is one of three British raiders in a six-runner field along with Ed Dunlop's Cadeaux Tryst (Tim Sprake) and David Loder's Master Boots (Olivier Peslier).

• Blinkered today for the first time: LUDLOW: 3.20 Don du Cadran; 5.20 Little Kenny. YORK: 3.30 Brownie's Promise; 4.00 General's Star.

Time to curb the antics of joyful jockeys

OW that the dust has settled, or should it be mud dried out, on the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe it is time to urge some action over the growing habit of winning jockeys making an exhibition of themselves as they pass the post.
The one blot on Helissio's

magnificent effort was Olivier Peslier's inelegant antics as he stood up in his stirrups, waving his whip and punching the air at least 100 yards before the line.

Not only is it unprofessional and unbecoming but described on the line.

downright dangerous and one day it will end in ignominoius In a sport so concerned

these days with image it does not do racing any favours and I believe is time the stewards were empowered to fine any jockey indulging in such premature and arrogant celebrations.

Frankie Dettori is inclined to go over the top and one can see this sort of thing becom-ing standard practice unless the authorities clamp down.

One of the more unlikely reasons advanced for the failday's Arc was that Frankie Dettori was incapable of giving him much assistance on account of being over-tired after all the guest appear-ances and celebrations following his Ascot seven-

Three Longchamp winners at the weekend, including a short-head triumph on Ryafan, hardly looked the work of a jaded man, whose treble at Redcar on Tuesday certainly nailed the lie.

Detiori should do well at

York this afternoon and could start with the first three

He rides Great Ovation (2.0) for Luca Cumani in the opening Equity Collection Stakes and if one ignores the colt's poor effort behind Brave Heart in the Solario Stakes at Sandown last time he must have a great chance. Previous victories over use-

ful opposition at Kempton and Yarmouth suggest this High Estate colt is no slouch. Dettori teams up with John Gosden's Enriched (2.30) in Congo Man at Sandown last month.

Aerleon Jane (3.00), another Gosden runner, could complete the quick-fire treble in the Allied Dunbar Stakes. After winning a handicap at Sandown in May she did not reappear until the Ascot Festival when unplaced behind Fatefully and should be

much fitter now. The day's nap is Ten Past Six (3.30), ridden by Michael Hills, in the Sasha Lyons Birthday Claiming Stakes. Recent form of this four-yearold is not inspiring, but early on in the season he was run-ning well, notably when second in a Chester handicap under 10 stone and when beaten half a length by Clifton Fox, who was in receipt of 10lb, at Hamilton.

Michael Stoute has been enjoying a successful autumn and General's Star (4.00) should not be far away in the Green Howards Nursery.

General's Star made all to win over this course and diswin over this course and dis-tance last month before fin-ishing eighth to Al Azhar at Doncaster a week later. Sandbaggedagain was second then and could be

regarded as the main danger today, but he has yet to win, is badly drawn and meets General's Star on 3lb worse terms now.

Richard Dunwoody travels to the Czech Republic this Charlie Mann, who won the race on the horse last year, in the Velka Pardubicka, in which 55 obstacles of varying severity have to be negotiated. Joining Dunwoody will be

Norman Williamson, who rides Irish Stamp for Ferdy Murphy, and Ken Whelan, partner of Sue Bramail's Ve-leda II. Dunwoody is in action at

Wincanton this afternoon and should score on Kesanta (2.10), runner-up to Hand Woven at Newton Abbot, in the Hatherleigh Maiden Hurdle.

 John Stack ended a losing spell of 69 when winning yes-terday's Newington Hotel York Racegoers Handicap at York on Gone Savage, who came with a strong late run to defeat Stuffed by one and a quarter lengths. Willie Musthe following Boddington puts a lot of credit for the Maiden Stakes and after a long lay-off this well-bred filly, by Generous of the Cheveley Park winner Embla, ran me to find the key to training

Obree outraged at 'Superman' ban 📓

Chris Boardman to take year using it. It will make doubt that it is because of in 1994, Boardman is one of this year's world pursuit the sport look silly. It's physical ability rather than the favourites in the abtitle and to break the world verging on incompetence." because the rider has a sence of the defending hour record. Obree and the ICU crossed swords two years

when the governing body banned the tucked-in position — similar to that adopted by downhill skiers - which the Scot used to win the 1993 world championship. An outraged Obree said yesterday: "This is a personal vendetta against me which is also against

the interests of the sport, and it is unacceptable. "The position is not being banned on safety grounds; could it be because the posime? I think the ICU is embarrassed because this position is called the Obree

9.90 TEM PAST SIX (Map) 4.00 General Stor (nb) 4.30 Rock The Barney

L Detteri S If Hughes 5 Pal Editory 1 P Lynch (2) 8 T Culon 2 16 Strub 4

The ICU's case is that in

recent years technical developments have obscured the physical demands made by cycling and have made it harder for the man on the street to identify with elite cyclists. "We do not want innovations which give technology preference over performance," the ICU president Hein Verbruggen said yesterday.

He denied that the ICU is engaged in a vendetta, but said: "Obree has been the catalyst in the process. He has outsmarted us time and

physical ability rather than the favourites in the abbecause the rider has a sence of the defending

hard by home riders.

in front of his home crowd. The hilly course — basi-

cally up and down the mountain behind this lake-

side town - will favour Ro-

minger, whose climbing ability is legendary. However, Boardman will

Boardman agrees with Obree that the governing body looks foolish after twice allowing new posi-tions to be used over a long period before deciding to ban them. "They put them-selves in a difficult position because they let these things go on for a long time. It looks a bit amateurish." Although the controversy

is set to rumble on in the background, it will not weigh on the result of today's elite time-trial title. The course's twisting hairpinned descent would be highly dangerous if at-tempted in the Superman position even if that were

have taken some encouragement from the perfor-mance yesterday of one of



his many proteges, Paul Manning from Stafford. Riding at world champion-ship level for the first time. the 21-year-old was 10th in the under-23 time-trial. In the women's race Yvonne McGregor finished 16th behind France's Jeannie Longo, who took the 11th world title of her career.

Ludlow (N.H.) Wincanton (N.H.)

	Holy Wanderer Doe du Cedres	4.20 Sigma R 4.50 Dramati 6.20 Bath Knight	
	actos bilakara. Gaing: Firm		_
		anne dessis days place islani. H	
2.2		CREEPOWER SELLING HANDS	CAP HURBLE Son of 110yde
1	////-05 DAME 7002 (11) M Shepperd 10-11-10	A Magaire
2	0-34325 KING OF BABYL	ON (20) F Jordan 4-11-8	L Aspell (2)
- 1	D-SPS2P LAC DE MINAS (2	PS) R Curtis 5-11-3 OT ME (20) A Carroll 5-10-13	Man C Person
- 2	OPP-GSR SMEETA THE (B)	10 Surchell 6-10-7	D J Surchell
	IPANI- AVESTRUCK (2	D Surchell 6-10-7 21) S Presce 5-10-6 Ot Bebyton, 9-2 Luc de Gras, 7-1 Dr	Q Hegen (3) +
Aurosi	ega 2-1 Siessia Tirma, R-4 Küng Harak	Ol Babylon, 11-2 Lac de Gras, 7-1 De	ing Rose, 8-1 They All Forgot Me, 6 resears-
2.5	О канситон также В	or Scania Novices' Chase 2=	15,008
1	115/P-SP RYTON BURN (B)	Mrs S Odell 11-11-9	B Fonton
	MOSEPI - CHAPEL OF BAR	RAS (823) B Gee 7-11-6	B Powell
:	112-FUS HOLY WARDEN	BR (4) T George 7-11-5	
- 1	403020- TEMAYESTELSO	3 de Haan 6-11-0 4 (143) D Marks 8-11-0	A WoCarlin
	ugs 4-7 Holy Wanderer, 4-1 Te	neyestelign, 6-2 Rylon Run, 10-1 La	ure Lye, 20-1 Chapel Ol Barras. 5
3.2	O RADIO SHINOPSHIRE S	TAYERS HAMDICAP HURDLE S	2f 150yda CI,787
1	121-4F1 TALLYWARDER	(19) (D) B Moore 9-12-0	X Destley
ė	15/23-64 DON DU CADRA	(19) (D) B Moore 9-12-0	A Thorston *
3	0F-0013 HOLY JOE (12) (C1 D Burchell 14-10-7	
1	COLUMN - NATURE DELICE (1	T) (C) K Balley 7-10-0 (272) (C) W Turner 11-10-0	Br R Wildey (7)
- 2	OF 1924 GEORGE ASSESS	RD (201 P. Johnson 6-10-0	A S Smith
Dell's	ou 6-4 Tallywagger, 3-1 Holy .	RD (26) P Johnson 6-10-0	lend, 7-1 Storm Drum, 16-1 Nothers
Blake.			6 rumors.
3.5		OF THE YEAR TROPHY (NOW	CE KANDICAP CHASE) 🛬 44
1	AUTO MILE DAVIN FT	(78s est) D Brace 5-12-2	A Manufac
- 3	44500-4 ON THE TEAR (2	60 F Lievel 10-10-4	
3	056-346 SCROT (12) J Ja	ti) F Lloyd 10-10-4 nions 5-10-4 E (26) B Proces 5-10-3	W Marabon
- 4	50-3 LETTE BY LITTL	E (26) B Preece 6-10-3	A Thornton
_	ga 2-a Bible Russen, 4-1 Script,	8-1 On The Tear, Utile By Little.	4 russers.
22,19	2	TTERNIATIONAL CHALLINGE (N	
	(SUPER- JOH'S CHOICE (348) 8 Presce 5-10-12	C Lieveliya
2	DESCRIPTION SECRETARIES (157)	7 J Edwards 7-10-12	T Hariett

-	ng: 2-5 Blue Raven, 4-1 Script, 8-1 On The Tear, Little By Little.	4 russe
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1	(SUPED - JONE'S CHOICE (SAR) 8 Preson 8-10-12	
2	(FSSU0- \$10MA RAIN (157) J Edwards 7-10-12	
3	SUPPLEMENTS John Berry 8-10-12	T Wheeler
4	P/- ANDY COSI (616) W Brisbourne 5-10-7	J Titley
طبلبة	egr 4-11 Sigma Run, 3-1 Superensis, 8-1 Jon's Choice, 33-1 Andy Coin.	4 ruppe
4.5	O IDERATION TRUCKS SCANA KNOW-HOW HANDICAP CRAS	E 2m 4f C2,682
•	501222 DRUMSTICK (24) (D) K Bailey 10-11-10	J Belling
÷	124222- MINE'S AN ACE (131) (CD) Venete Williams 9-11-9	
3	41343-8 CRACKLING FROST (34) Nrs D Haine 8-10-2	d F Titley
	eg. 4-7 Drussestick, 8-4 Mine's An Ace, 6-1 Crackling Frost.	3 russe
5.2	O SCAMA 4-SHEES KING OF THE ROAD JUVENILE HOVICES	#URDLE 3YO 2m £2,4
1	33 AMDSORE BOY (8) C Barvell 10-12	B CREard
2	43 BATH KHIGHT (26) D Breach Davis 10-12	A Maguero ×
3	CSELLENZYON W Brisbourns 20-12	C Uewellen
Ā	4 COLUMNOOK WALLE (7) J Bosley 10-12	M. Bosley
6	(3) CHOSTLY APPARETION (7) J R Upson 16-12	
	HIEVER GOLF DIAMOND T Naveston 10-12	WWW.
7	LATIGHTHIS BUCCAMBER D CHEY 10-12	
á	PORTER J Bradey 16-7	9 Featos
	O LITTLE RECENT (42) T Was 10-7	R Massey (3) +

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Results

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1995; Signifur 4 10 13 L Wyer 2-1 (N Á Graham) 8 ran

Settings 4-8 Courteril, 4-1 Charged, 7-1 Miramere, 14-1 Ask Herry, 25-1 Laxly Ness.

Big losses rumoured in Atlanta

EPORTS that the At lanta summer Olymens of millions of dollars are being cautiously discounted here by the International Olympic Committee which hopes the forthcoming accounts will be in credit.

There are no figures or the table, under the table or in the drawers," the IOC's dirard insisted yesterday when media reports of a deficit. We have not had a final account yet. There is talk of a modest profit but there is no

The IOC had hoped to discuss the Atlanta Olympics in detail at its executive board meeting yesterday but reports on the organisation of the Games were not complete. Final accounts from Atlanta

"I'm expecting good news, maybe not great news," said John Krimsky of the US Olympic Committee. "But good news for me is anything in the black."

The privately funded Games lacked the usual safety net of state financial support. and without it Atlanta's strategy was more blatantly comcomplained about the large number of private vendors whose market stalls clogged roads and squares in the city

technology, all of which drew heavy media criticism.

Carrard said the IOC did not expect to examine finan-cial aspects of the Games until its next meeting in Mex ico next month, when most of the other reports should be



Fans resist move from Headingley

EEDS supporters have reacted vigorously to the threat of the club's move from Headingley implicit in the announcement by Yorkshire County Cricket Club of their intention to move by

With takeover negotiations affecting the company that owns both Headingley and the rugby league club, Leeds Rugby League Action Group held an emergency meeting at the stadium last night to dis-cuss its future as a league

Headingley is one of the game's best-known stadiums not against anybody trying to

league and we believe that the sport of rugby league would be much better served by us staying on this site. The public reaction to the possibility of the side being switched away has been very strong.
"If anybody succeeded in

gaining control of the club and then attempted to transplant the team somewhere else in the city it would sim-ply fade away. We believe it would rob the club of its

had declined to send a repre sentative to last night's meeting, and a spokesman for the Leeds club said last night: 'We are committed to perstay with us at Headingley. There is a long way to go before they could move out and we understand that the funding for the proposed new site

But league's future there still looks cloudy because one of the groups attempting to buy the Super League club, Caspian plc, includes in its bid a proposal to move the league side in with its other

silence on the progress of their talks with Caspian and tury-old home. McHale said: "We don't know the identity of this other bidder but if he wants to keep rugby league at Headingley he would be our

Wigan and Bradford Bulls are still vying for the signature of the winger Nick Zisti from

Great Britain forward Les Holliday has been appointed assistant coach to Peter Roe ould rob the club of its by Swinton Lions, who were lentity."

McHale said Yorkshire CCC ision at the end of last season.

at Elland Road. Headingley officials yester-day maintained a dignified

preferred option."

the Sydney club St George.
The 34-year-old former

commandeered to take the players to the ground by 1pm, two hours before the kick-off.



commercialism that turned Atlanta into a huge flea marto investigate the short comings in Atlanta's trans



Patrick Glenn in Tallinn witnesses a low farce as the opposition fails to turn up for their Group Four World Cup qualifier

son opened early here yesterday, when Scot-land played a phantom World Cup tie against no-body. Estonia should have een there but, like some foot balling Nessie, failed to ap-pear as several hundred obervers waited in anticipation on the steps of the Kadriorg

Fifa, the world governing body, had ordered the kick-of of the Group Four qualifier to be brought forward from the scheduled 6.45pm to 3pm, to ensure daylight at a stadium where the floodlights were below standard.

The Scots, led by the chef de mission Jim Farry, the Scottish Football Association's any purchaser trying to move which wants to keep the his team followed Fifa in-the team from Headingley. league operation at its cen-structions to the letter, de-spite an attempt at mild sabospite an attempt at mild sabo-tage by his Estonian rivals. The team bus failed to appear at the Scots' hotel on time but the transport waiting to carry the association's officials wa

> The farce had begun on Tuesday afternoon when Craig Brown, Scotland's manager, made it clear he be-lieved that the lights were not up to standard. He said his party would call it to the at-tention of the Fifa commis

bein of Luxembourg, but would go along with whatever that official decided

ESTONIA FAIL TO TURN UP IN FLOODLIGHT ROW

At a meeting at the ground at 8pm on Tuesday the lights were tested. Gantenbein used the light-meter test and said they were generally all right but he was unsure about parts of the field.

There was particular concern about temporary lamps installed in an effort to up-grade the floodlighting. These appeared to bring low-level glare to one goal area, a possible hazard for the goalkeepers. At that stage Einar Leppanen, the Estonian FA cretary, said that the lighting was the same for both sides but if Fifa decreed an

would comply.

Gantenbein decided that the game would take place as scheduled and Farry said Scotland would go ahead but under protest. At a meeting of the SFA's international committee in the Olympia Hotel here later that night it was agreed to register the visitors' mease with Fifa by fax. A copy of this communication, completed at 2.30am, was slipped under the bedroom doors of the match referee, Miroslav Radoman of Yugo-

slavia, and of Gantenbein. Yesterday morning Ganten-bein contacted his superiors at Fifa headquarters in Zurich. By 9am Estonia time Europe - Farry had received a fax from Fifa saying that its emergency sub-committee

other Scottish officials, their Estonian counterparts and Gantenbein — all with their copies of the Fifa fax — met at the stadium, where the com-missioner informed everyone that the lighting would not that the game would have the afternoon start.

Soon afterwards the Esto nian FA issued a statemen that it could not comply because some of the team's time players and all of the supporters were at work. Later it claimed that the team were in their training camp at Kethna, 100 kilometres

By 1pm Aiver Pohlak, the Estonian FA vice-president, had said: We told Fifa this morning that we could not move from the original time. They were asking us to be at the stadium at a time when we had scheduled our players' lunch.

Later Pohlak added: "We will leave our training camp at 4pm and travel to the sta-dium. We know Scotland will have been and gone and there will be no match today." The "match" lasted approx-

imately one second. That was how long it took Billy Dodds, the Aberdeen striker, to pass the ball to his captain, John Collins, whose first touch brought the final whistle from Radoman. Fifa will not decide until

November 7 on how the points or score from the "match" will be allocated but according to World Cup rules article six, paragraph six
 unless Estonia can come up with a pretty good excuse, which seems unlikely, Scot-land will be awarded a 3-0 had decided that the kick-off victory and the three points would be 3pm and empha-that go with it.



Frank Keating

are used to the opposition not turning up; they just toss for ends and kick off against nobody before trooping off to the pub to safely in their satchel.

But yesterday in Estonia was the World Cup, for Heaven's sake. Well, okay, in 1973 the USSR, having been out-played and held by Chile to play-off in Moscow, de-clined to turn up for the second leg in Santiago's National Stadium because

left-wing prisoners had been shot there earlier that year. Generally the world took the point and ap-plauded the Soviet stand. Nevertheless they were kicked out of the 1974 World Cup.

In comparison yesterday, Scotland's Wednesday afternoon was pure Sunday morning stuff. In particu-lar, Scottish Sunday morning stuff. Indeed, some of Scotland's players in Tal-ling might have readily recognised the phenomenon of 11 lining up against none as a Tartan trait, especially if

Y Kateleikev (Rus) bt D Princel (Ger) 7-5. 6-2 T illinear (Aut) bt G Pozzi (II) 7-5. 6-4. D Yasak (Cz) bt P Hastrius (Roth) 7-6. 5-3: B Becker (Ger) bt M Woodbros (Aut) 7-5. 3-6. 6-4. Second resudt, N. Rossek (Switz) bt A Medvodev (Utr) 7-6.

(~6.5-2. FILDERSTADT WOMEN'S TOURNAMENTS Flat rounds A Higher (Get) bt E Wagner (Get) 5-2. 6-1. Second rounds A Searchest Visimie (Sp) or J Capriae (US) 6-4. 6-4.

WHOASICH ASSURANCE OPEN (Isle of Man): Resend Physic K Arkell K V Thachler (Kaz) & B Kristensen (Den) K J Hodgson K A Baburin (Ire) & D Norwood K J Hodgson (Swe) X J Emine K I Hevikov (Rus) V, Hoursonwhits (Gr) b H Hurt & M Hebbor & Was I K Brodsky (Ikr) D. A Ladgor 1: C Ward O. G Buckloy 1. Leadersta Arkell, Trachiev O. G Buckloy 1. Leadersta Arkell, Trachiev A Kristenson, Hodgson, Baburin, Norwood, Hector, Emine, Norkhov, Lindgor Buckley 3K.

Basketbali

Cycling

Snooker

Squash

MALTA GRAND PRIX (Marsescala): Piret remedi A Robidouz (Cen) bi S Ca-milleri (Malia) 5-3. Quarter-finets it Bend (Engl bi J Swall (M) 5-2.

kick-about working men's | lights. It is surprising that teams with such cannily floodlit football has not boastful names as Queen of been the cause of more Spanish waiters' XI) Apparent Madrid. A glassworks played as Crystal Phallus until the Glasgow FA got wise and banned it, but I hope my favourite two remain, rival workers from the same old Milanda Bak-

ery, calling themselves Inter and AC.
All Sunday morning kick-offs would, of course, be hangover-dependent. It was 21 seasons ago that a bet, poked his head into the changing-hut to warn Glen-

craig United of his hopes for a sporting encounter in their crunch match against

to receive such collective verbal abuse that he redboth subs on the spot. Gol-denhill kicked off against no one and took the winning points to the pub.

Apart from the Soviet

Union's political stand against Chile, foreign com-petition has until yesterday been blessed with both teams at least turning up for the kick-off, barring occasional hiccups. In which regard too the Scots man-aged a first. In 1930 the pioneering Raith Rovers squad sailed from Kirk-caldy to play a series of foreign friendlies against various Canary Island XIs. Alas, their vessel was shipwrecked off Casablanca and, although players and officials were all rescued, they never made the Canar-ies nor, indeed, any pro-

they were graduates of that plethora of park leagues around Glasgow.

Those leagues contain plaints about the flood-three points.

postponements — apart from occasional power-cuts or Ted Heath's three-day Mr Faraday's invention has served sport pretty well

in the 118 years almost to the day since that first-ever floodlit match at Sheffield's October 14 1878. Then 20,000 people "made for a scene of great animation and, our Manchester Guardian reporter contincaused when a charge was made with the ball in the face of the lights and the players became dazzled"

Eleven days later, 8,000 turned up for a similar "illuminated" match across the Pennines at Chorley but this time a rainstorm caused the electricians to pull the ping for safety reasons, while that very same night in Glasgow, at Cathkin Park, another floodlit match was played

with great success.
Scotland, simply, should have put up with the lighting in Tailinn and played by the rules. Hadn't their scouts been to the ground to suss it out? That is when any complaint should have been registered.

had the light in their eyes, poor diddums. If yesterday Scotland were acting the Big Advanced Nation then their three points were too easily, flaccidly and mfairly won.

Scotland should have played their match at the time which was billed months ago. Three points. But, methinks, a conned

Peter White

WORKEN'S WORLD OPEN (Kuels Luttipus): Separat resimes Hilbertin (Aus) of Separat (Ger) 9-4, 9-3; T Streether (Eng) bt R Macree (Eng) 9-4, 9-7; S-10, 5-9, 9-6; C Jacobrana (Eng) bt T Weeks (Aus) 9-6, 9-3, 3-9, 9-5; C Mitch (SA) bt S Shabana (Egypt) 3-3, 9-6, 3-9, 9-3; Convers (Eng) bt D Hollerga (US) 4-9, 9-3, 9-4, 9-4; S Wright (Eng) bt J Wilson (M2) 2-9, 9-5; 8-1, 9-0; R Comper (Aus) bt E Pietre (IS) 8-7, 9-0; P General Aus) bt S Barrist (Ger) 9-3, 9-3; 9-5; P Bechana (M2) at N Tippet (Aus) 9-2, 9-3, 9-7; S Fitz-Gordini (Aus) bt C Venter (SA) 8-1, 9-1, 9-0; E Schema (Aus) 4-9, 9-0, 9-0; O Conventi (Aus) 4-9, 9-0, 9-0; O Conventi (Aus) 4-9, 9-0, 9-0; O Conventi (Aus) 5-1, 9-7; 9-3, 9-3; M Tippet (Aus) 6-1, 9-2; S Schema (Ger) to S Cook, M2, 11-9, 9-5, 3, 9-3; M Tippet (Aus) bt V Aldrison (Neth) 3-1, 9-7; 9-2, 8-6, 9-2, 9-1, Linda Charminn (Eng) bt D Orndy-Harto (Aus) 5-9, 9-0, 9-1, 9-0 Rugby League

TOUR MATCHES: Cumbris v Australian Aboriginals (7:30, Barrow): Lion Red Cus XIII v Grost Britain (7:30am, Carlete Ph.) Basketball SUDWEISER LEAQUE: Leopards

Fixtures

A lired top seed Thomas Muster equoused past the hallon qualifier Glan-luca Pozzi in a light brain-round match at the CA Trophy or Venna The Austrian left-hander, ranked third in the world, blanted his weak discay on latigue following a recent bout of flu, which led to the 29-year-old losing in the first round in Lyon Inst week. Mustor's next match to against week. Mustor's next match to against which was mel eight times in the past without any buccess. In earlier first-round matches flussels third seed Vergeny Kefelinisor ultimated Germany's Devid Princell 7-6, 8-2 which the Frenchman Ampud Boolsch acet shall cased Chitege Marcole Rics packing with a 6-2, 8-4 wickey.

● Cottic have promises to resolve their long-running contract raw with the striker hong-running contract raw with the striker hong-running contract raw with the striker large and payer and club when Cettic claired Van Hooydonk, who has 18 months of his Perkhead contract to run, had demanded an improved pay deal, an accusation betterly denied by the Dutchman. But Cotto's manager formry Burns had follow with Van Hooydons and the club request a stainment yesterday which club request a stainment yesterday which called the pay dispute about by Goalf with the country burns.

McGrath set for £200,000 **Derby move**

ERBY COUNTY's manager Jim Smith hopes to complete the £200,000 signing of the veteran Aston Villa defender Paul McGrath today. McGrath. 36, travelled to Derby's Baseball Ground last night for talks with Smith after the clubs agreed a fee, which is believed to be a down payment of £100,000 fol-lowed by instalments based on appearances.

Smith is looking for the experience and defensive quali-ties of McGrath to help stabi-lise Derby in their first season back in Premiership football. Derby's manager hopes to

Derby's manager hopes to tie up the deal despite renewed interest by Coventry's manager Ron Atkinson.

McGrath was put on the transfer list by Villa's manager Brian Little after the player claimed that his proposed move to Coventry had been thwarted by the size of the fee Villa were demanding. Now, even in the twilight of his career, McGrath hopes he his career, McGrath hopes he can do enough at club level to prove that he still has a future with the Republic of Ireland. Wolves have signed the German midfielder Jens Dowe on loan until the end of

permanent deal. Mark McGhee has agreed to pay Hamburg £200,000 for Dowe's services now and a further 21 million if he stays

at Molineux.

Dowe will make his debut in Sunday's televised First Division game at Southend.



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PAGEONE

Results

Waddle aims for higher office

CHRIS WADDLE'S High-land fling came to an end yesterday when his monthlong contract at Falkirk expired. The former England winger

had his final training session with the Scottish First Div-ision side and then said: "I am ready for anything, either as a player or on the manage-ment and coaching side. Or

At the opposite end of the British Isles, Southampton have been granted a work permit for Eyal Berkowitz, who was signed from Maccabi Haifa for £1 million. The Is-raell midfielder will make his debut in the Premiership match at Coventry City on Sunday.

Along the South Coast Portsmouth's skilful defender Andy Awford has signed a two-year contract, quashing talk of a £2 million move to Arsenal or Chelsea. "Signing a new agreement with Pompey should end all the speculation of the special contraction of the specia

lation about me moving else-where. It's great to have it all sorted out," he said. Middlesbrough, meanwhile, have accepted a £250,000 offer from Barnsley for John Hendrie. The Boro manager
Bryan Robson sald he was in
no hurry to sell the 32-yearold striker: "It's up to John. If
he wants to stay, that's fine."
In the World Cup qualifying, Portugal as expected

proved too strong for Albania

scoring in the 11th minute in

the Group Nine contest, late goals from Helder and Rui Costa completing a 3-0 vic-tory for the visitors.

WORLD CUP EUROPEAN QUALIFYING **Group Four**

Note: PIFA will decide on November what action they plan to take over the abandoned Estenia v Scotland match of to be played yesterday. That game is no included in those standings.

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Rugby Union

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Cricket

Windies

cut their

EST INDIAN Test
players will be
phased out of English
county cricket within two

years after the completion of

a retainer system designed to ensure their loyalty to the game in the Caribbean.

Although West Indian players still involved in the county game, such as Courtney Walsh and Carl Hooper, will be allowed to honour existing the county of the

isting contracts, their departure looks sure to signal the

end of a procession of top names into the English game

over the past 30 years. With Australia already dis-

suading its top bowlers from taking on the demands of an English summer, the South

Africans baving similar doubts, and Sri Lanka regu-

larly hosting August tours,

the survival of overseas players in county cricket is look

The West Indies board has

offered one-year contracts

worth between £10,000 and £40,000 to encourage 20 lead-

ing players to remain in the Caribbean to play and coach. A further 30 contracts are planned, preventing English counties even from identifying promising young players long before they reach Test

The board's chief executive

Steve Camacho confirmed: "Our first contracts have gone out to potential West Indies

players. The others will go to

good first-class players. who contribute enormously to the

quality of the first-class game

in the West Indies.
"Most of our top players now

play professionally in England and South Africa when they are not playing international cricket for the West Indies. These contracts would ensure

they remain at home to help

raise the standard of club cricket and to coach.

ers where they can't play. We

are trying to protect the future of West Indies cricket

and you can only protect it by looking after it from its origin

Hooper has completed one year of a two-year deal at Kent, and Gloucestershire's

chief executive Philip August is confident that Walsh will

honour his promise to sign a fresh two-year contract.

Monday and have also had discussions with officials at the West Indies board," he

said. "If some players decide

to return to county cricket they will certainly not be pe-nalised by the West Indies authorities."

West Indies cricket has

"I spoke to Courtney on

"We aren't telling the play-

ing doubtful.

supply

lines

David Hopps

Thursday October

Secret talks head off breakaway

Robert Armstrong

HE threatened breakaway by England's leading clubs from the Rugby Football Union, due to take place tomorrow, has been post-poned indefinitely. Instead another round of talks be-tween the RFU and English Professional Rugby Union Clubs will be held at an undis-closed West End location in an attempt to resolve the year-long dispute that has pushed the game to the edge Informal discussion be-

tween representatives of both bodies has produced an outline peace formula with enough bonus points to per-suade Epruc to put back its breakaway deadline until such time as talks collapse again — if they do. In effect the clubs, who have so for the clubs, who have so far failed to secure a binding contract from Twickenham on the distribution of income and the control of competitions, have climbed down on the basis of a tacit understanding developed among

the negotiators.
However, the RFU, which is as anxious as the clubs to avert a damaging split and further public mud-slinging, has lined up a series of concrete proposals that it is understood will bring the understood will bring the the clubs is over". The cap-clubs an income of about £50 tain will be appointed inj-

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DELL'A

meeting.

John Hall and Chris Levison. In return for its outlay and for handing over the lion's share of control of domestic league and cup competitions

to the clubs, Twickenham will expect firm guarantees from Epruc on the release of players for England's interna-tional matches and squad training sessions at senior, A and under-21 level. The conditions of availability will be written into the individual contracts that Twickenham will hand out to about 40 members of the England

Squad.
Yesterday the RFU's treasurer Colin Herridge, who is one of the four-man negotiating panel due to meet Epruc officials, attended an England squad session at Bisham Abbey, where he was jocularly crowned with a wreath of banana skins by the England coach Jack Rowell.

Herridge and his RFU col-leagues Cliff Brittle, Tony Hallett and John Richardson will try to avoid stepping on any strategically placed banana skins tomorrow, the eve of the European Cup.

Rowell yesterday put his 51man squad through a vigor-ous two-hour session that included heavy contact, with the help of the assistant coaches Les Cusworth, Keith

Victor Costello have defied their club and opted to play Kerr will be joined on for Leinster in Saturday's Epruc's four-man negotiating Heineken Cup match against team by Peter Wheeler, Sir Llanelli at Stradey Park. The Courage League One club had rejected requests to release their players for the Irish provinces in the European tournament.



عرامن الرحل

Sonding together . . . Chris Sheasby (left) and Paul Grayson (right) combine to stop Tim Rodber at Bisham Abbey yesterday

Anglo-Welsh Cup: Cardiff 24, Harlequins 53

ground four days before they travel to London to face Wasps in the opening round of the European Cup. Both teams were considerably below strength, de rigueur for this competition, but Cardiff still fielded seven internationals in the club's first Anglo-

bring up the century for English clubs in the Anglo-Welsh Cup. Mike Corcoran kicked an early penalty for them but then Cardiff applied the pressure and came close to scoring four times in two minutes before Lee Jarvis equalised with a pen-alty in front of the posts.

of their game at will, scored four tries through Chal-linor, Mensah, Keyter and Corcoran, all the result of their ability to keep the

in the third quarter in reply to Mensah's second, reducing the visitors' lead to 17 points, but whereas Mensah's try had had its origins 20 yards from the Harlequins line, Cardiff's ball alive and take play through several phases. In contrast Cardiff were slow, were all short-range, a pedestrian and predictable. scrappy effort that showed Cardiff had more to say

sides. Cardiff could not even think as quickly as the Quins could handle and pass, and tries from Con-nolly and Kitchin brought up the half-century.

SCORERS: Cardiff: Tries: Booti

SCORERS: Carellén Triess Booth, Williams, Trehame Conversiones Jarvis 3. Pennsitze Jarvis, Mariequines Triess Mensah 2. Cororan, Challinor, Keyler, Connolly, Klichin, Gewernidens Corooran 6. Pennsitiess Conoran 2. Carellén 1, Jones, B Hill, L Davice, G Jones, N Walter, L Jarvis, B Trehame, P Booth, P Young, L Mussoe, K Barwart, D Devise, M Bennett, J Ringer, O Williams (capti. Harriequinus: G Connolly, J Williams, P Mensah, J Keyter, M Cororan; P Challinor, Fi Kitchin, A Cademir, H Brown, A Mullins (capt), G Lewellyn, A Snow, E Pickup, S Owen, M Watson.

Sport in brief

Shenton comes of age on world tour

THE British jumior champion Tracey Shenton made her senior World Tour breakthrough in the second round of the Perrier Women's World Open Squash Championship at Petaling Jaya, Malaysia. The 19-year-old from Stone in Staffordshire defeated the 30th seed, Essex's Rebecca Macrea, 9–4, 9–7, 8–10, 6–9, 9–6 in 70 minutes. The England No. 3 Fiona Geaves dismissed the American No. 1 Demer Holleran 4–9, 9–3, 9–4, 9–4 in 39 minutes to reach an all-English third-round match against Sue Wright.

The world No. 1 Jansher Khan and his Australian rival Rodney Eyles will contest the Qatar International final in Doha for the third successive time after winning their semi-finals yesterday. Jansher, seven times world champion, has beaten Eyles in the last two Qatar finals and will aim to win the title for the fifth consecutive time today. The Pakistani defeated the unseeded Frenchman Julien Bonetat 15-8, 15-11, 15-8 in the first semi-final, which lasted 53 minutes. Eyles, who inflicted a rare defeat on Jansher in the Hong Kong Open final in August, beat the fifth-seeded Chris Walker of England 17-16, 15-10,

No breaks for Capriati

THE 20-year-old 1992 Olympic tennis champion Jennifer Capriati, on the women's circuit part-time after a two-year break because of drug problems, was beaten 6-4, 6-4 by Arantza Sanchez Vicario in the second round of the Filderstadt tournament in Germany.

Hampshire's Chris Wilkinson is guaranteed the home circuit title after defeating the national junior champion Arvind Parmar from Hertfordshire 6-4, 6-2 in the quarter-finals of the LTA Autumn Satellite Masters in Sheffield yesterday. Wilkinson, who will now move back up to well inside the world's top 200, meets the South African fifth seed Robbie Koenig in today's semi-finals.

Kiwi cleared for Saints

THE Super League champions St Helens have received work-permit clearance for the 23-year-old Auckland Warriors prop Julian O'Neill. He will arrive at Knowsley Road early in Decem-ber and will make his debut for the Saints in the two-leg Norweb Christmas Challenge against the Premiership winners Wigan.

Tumelty to face New Zealand

LEE TUMELTY's impressive form at the World Cup men's pre-LEE TUMELTY's impressive form at the World Cup men's pre-liminary-round hockey competition in Sardinia has earned him a starting place in Ireland's semi-final against New Zealand today. The Banbridge youngster has made a huge impact in his first international tournament and is likely to get the nod in midfield as the Ireland captain Alan Dowd is struggling for fitness. Dowd suffered a recurrence of a back injury in yesterday's 3-1 defeat of Italy, having missed Ireland's previous group matches against Kenya and Poland with the problem. With the Irish having already secured a place in the next phase of the World Cup

having already secured a place in the next phase of the World Cup qualifying process, the coach Cess Kopellaar is unlikely to risk his captain's health. Kopellaar sees Tumelty as a successor to the great midfielder Jimmy Kirkwood, the Seoul goal medallist who refired last season.

Nemeth goes cosmopolitan

ENGLAND's basketball coach Laszlo Nemeth has picked six overseas players in his squad to play the five remaining European Championship qualifying games, beginning against Latvia at Leleaster on October 30, writes Robert Pryce.

John Amaechi, who spent last season with the Cleveland Cavaliers, and Spencer Dunkley, whose season was ruined by injury, return to the team and the newcomers include Delme Harriman, in his first year out of Stanford University, Panji Grainger, the young Manchester guard, and Jason Swaine, Sheffield's long-range gunner.

ENGLAND: R Eaker, R Scaotlebury (C Palace), Brown, Asstin (London). McKlessey, Swalms, Payms, Hinggins (Sheffield), Grainger (Manchester), Streets (Newcasile), Gardher (Willierrocke), Herriman (Trieste). P Scantlebury (Thames Valley), Ameechi (Panathinalkos), Dunkley (Limoges), Whyte (Besancon).

Captain Kite's reconnaissance flight for cup campaign

Michael Britten in Madrid

TOM KITE is 46, wears large glasses and looks more like a librarian than a professional golfer. Yet this studious Texan, a former US Open champion who has earned more than £6 million in a 25-year career, is the man charged with recovering the Ryder Cup for the United States and exacting retribution for Europe's victory at Oak

Hill last year.
Ostensibly he is here to play in the Oki Pro-Am tournament which is part of the European Cup qualifying process and begins today at La Moraleja. But the real purpose of his visit is to reconnoitre the Ryder Cup arena at Valderrama next week and gauge the in-tensity of the Spanish in-quisition his US team will face next September.

Yesterday the US captain got his retaliation in first by declaring he would like nothing more than to be a playing captain, and if his opponent just happened to be Severiano Ballesteros then so much the better.

"It would be an honour for both of us to make the team as player and cap-tain," he said. "Both of us need to get our games in shape, but I can assure you that anybody who has m as many teams as we have wants to be part of the

Ballesteros agreed. "I too will be trying to get into the team on merit. I will decide next August.

They played each other in the 1985 match at The Bel-fry, when Kite was three up with five to play but was held to a half when Ballesteros won the 14th, 15th and 17th with birdies. Kite has remained unbeaten in his seven cup singles but for the moment the Spanjard has an edge, for he lies 21st in the European Ryder rankings whereas Kite is 78th in the American list.

Kite has an ace up his sleeve in the sensational newcomer Tiger Woods. "Having gained his tour card by winning in Las Vegas he is now eligible to start winning Ryder points," he said. "I will be flabbergasted if he does not qualify for our team."

Dunhill Cup of cosy complexity



annual exercise in cal-culation and confusion

- its format being that con-

tradiction in terms, medal match-play — begins over the Old Course at St Andrews

today. A combination of money and the allure of the

venue has attracted several of the world's superstars, most

of whom do not understand

what, when, and to whom, but all could be magically modi-

fied by removing one word — medal — from the tourna-

ment description. Straightforward match play has the twin benefits of being a tradi-

the format themselves. The programme devotes no fewer that 30 lines of tiny type trying to explain who does



Tiger by the tail . . . Woods (left) faces pressures familiar to former prodigies Els and Mickelson

respectively Colin Montgo-merie (Scotland) and Phil Mickelson (United States),

will represent their countries.

So too will Greg Norman (Australia), Nick Price (Zim-

babwe) and Ernie Els (South

Africa) as they attempt to lead their teams through a round-

robin series of matches to the top of one of the four four-

team groups, so qualifying for a semi-final on Sunday morn-

ing, with the winners playing the final for first prizes of £100,000 a man that same

afternoon. Got it?
There will of course be

some good golf, probably some great matches and quite

possibly a few ho-hos, though probably none so funny as in

1993 when Montgomerie, in



seeds this week, followed by Australia, South Africa and

Zimbabwe. England, repre-

sented by Barry Lane, Lee Westwood and Jonathan Lo-

mas, are unseeded for the

first time in the cup's 12

years. Scotland are seeded fifth; Ireland, who must have an outstanding chance with a

team consisting of Darren Clarke, Paul McGinley and

Padraig Harrington, are

sixth.
The US are captained by

Mickelson, who won a tour event while still an amateur

and was the last "new Nick-laus" before the latest, Tiger

Woods. Young Woods, in fact, has been the talk of a town that talks of little else but golf

and Mickelson was happy to

add his ha porth.
"When I came on to the tour I already had my card.

leading three-man teams preparing for another perplexing week at St Andrews

one on tour."

David Davies finds

some of the world's

"Just so long as he doesn't

start believing all that 'How great you are' stuff," said Els,

who also heard all the hype as

a youngster but had a level-headed family around him to

keep his feet on the ground. Last week Els played in the German Masters with Mont-

gomerie, whom he describes as "a class player. He only needs a major and he'll win more than one".

Perhaps Price was the most

coherent about Woods. "He

has come along at a time

when America desperately needed a superstar. He has an unbelievable future but I

think the US press will give

him a tough time. He will

need to have a pretty mature head on his shoulders."

been refreshed by an 18 million sponsorship deal over five years from Cable and Wireless, as well as the ap-pointment of a dynamic new positioner. Pat Rousseau.

Australia and India fear
their one-off Test starting
today in New Delhi will not

last the scheduled five days. The pitch at the Feroz Shah Kotla stadium is so worn that spinners are expected to dom-inate the game for the new Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

That country are the top third in his three previous seeds this week, followed by events. He's impressed every-

Wisden writer rejected

Complaints by

BBC Radio 5 Live's treatment of the author of the article that questioned the commitment of non-white England cricketers were yes-terday rejected by a broad-

casting watchdog.
Robert Henderson, whose article Is It In the Blood? ap-peared in the July 1995 issue of Wisden Cricket Monthly, reported the former England captain David Gower to the Broadcasting Complaints Commission because, he claimed, two editions of Gower's Cricket Weekly show were unbalanced and hostile

towards him.

The programmes debated Henderson's article, in which he suggested that what he termed "negro" and Asian players in England's Test team who were not born and raised in Britain might not have the same commitment to the team as other players.

Henderson, a freelance writer, also complained about his treatment on Radio 5 Live's The Magazine programme and The Back Page. He alleged a Radio 5 presenter asked if his article was "racist claptrap" and cut short callers who might have supported his views.

The commission said a less pejorative phrase should have been used but could find no unfairness to Henderson in

any of the programmes.

The England pace bowlers
Phillip DeFreitas and Devon Malcolm, both West Indianborn, were later awarded "substantial" damages against the Wisden magazine in the High Court.

countries will contest the four they did. Paraguay also beat days and such luminaries as the leaders of the European and the American rankings, the United States.

Golding hot away from pirates

tional format in the game's assessing his country's match most traditional place, and comprehensible to all.

Teams of three from 16 all go home." They didn't, so

Bob Fisher

IKE GOLDING was feeling the heat yesterday as he set the pace on the first leg of the BT Global Challenge to Rio de Janeiro. Some 350 miles off the African coast and 1,200 north of the Equator, his Group 4 crew reported: Down below is becoming unbearable, especially in the galley, with the heat of the generator and cooking."

They also had a close encounter with a container ship, which they had to radio to alter course.

Golding is most westerly of across 300 miles from east to miles further in front.

west. During the past 24 hours the inshore boats made

gains, but at a risk greater than container ships. The coast of Western Sahara and Mauritania is renowned for pirates, and Richard Tudor, skipper of Nuclear Electric in seventh place, issued his crew with parachute flares as weapons in case the yacht was attacked. With fishing boats about, there was no immediate trouble.

Paul Bennett in Ocean Rover, in third place 21 miles ahead on Nuclear Electric, had the best 24-hour run, 241 miles. Chris Tibbs in Concert, some 10 miles ahead, did 239. the 14-boat fleet, now spread | The computer put Group 4 six

Athletics

Drug D-day for Capobianco

tour I already had my card.
Tiger has had to get his, but he did that without the blink of an eye. It's not just the win, he had an 11th, a fifth and a Germany. Australia v Japan.

May will learn in the next seven weeks if they are to be banned from competition. The International Amateur

Athletic Federation said yesterday that an independent arbitration panel will meet in Monte Carlo to consider the case of the Australian sprinter Dean Capobianco on November 24 and that of the

1988 Seoul Olympics, at a tion could be sued successmeeting in Holland but estully in a civil court.

TWO athletes who competed at the Olympic Athletics Australia, the Games in Atlanta despite failing drug tests at meetings in cleared him on the ground that the testing procedure was seriously flawed.
Though Bevilacqua twice

tested positive for the stimulant ephedrine, an Italian panel ruled that she had taken the drug by accident. In Atlanta the IAAF's deci-

sion to allow the pair to com-pete was described by its general secretary Istvan Gyulai Italian high jumper Antonella as "embarrassing", and Bevilacqua on October 26. senior officials made it clear Capobianco tested positive they regarded both athletes as for stanozolol, the steroid guilty of doping offences but used by Ben Johnson at the legal advisers said the federa-



Sports Guardian

WORLD CUP SOCCER

European Group Two England 2, Poland 1

Shearer double spares **England** defence

goals from the England cap-tain considerably eased Glenn Hoddle's discomfort in his first home game as national coach after Marsk early lead. But Hoddle's three-man defence looked vul-Hinchcliffe's trusty left foot nerable throughout and the 1998 World Cup looked a long Not that this was of imme-

way away. Hoddle last night put his faith in the evolving Newcas-tis pairing of Shearer and Ferdinand which has already produced 10 of the club's 15 goals. Shearer was always go-ing to be in but Ferdinand's

Altogether more

interesting bar code.

BEST SELLING PREMIUM

CASK ALE SINCE 1777

recall was a surprise.
Previously Ferdinand had
been regarded as an alternative to Shearer. The two had played together for England only once before, in the I-I any problems. But Warzycha

England produced consistentily good crosses last night commodate Ferdinand but

diate concern, the way things turned out. Two probing Pol ish attacks suggested both that Nowak could find space with ease and that England might rue Hoddle's decision to dispense with Pallister.

Within six minutes theory had become uncomfortable fact. Baluszynski collected a return pass from Hajto on the right and sent a routine cross that should not have caused



Pole-star . . . Marek Citko, alone beyond the far post, opens the scoring after six minutes at Wembley last night with David Seaman spreading himself in vain Photograph CLAE BRASSO.

and Neville, confusing the de-fenders as he allowed the ball Citko, who scuttled in from the left to best Seaman with a narrow-angled shot.

This was not in the script. Wembley, packed with flags and expectation, had assumed that England would simply carry on from Euro 96. As the Poles continued to unravel Hoddle's defence, while getting enough men behind the ball to frustrate England's

Charlie Stuart in Dublin

THE Republic of Ireland took a giant step to the World Cup finals in

France in 1998 when they swept aside the challenge of Macedonia at Lansdowne

Road last night. Their hero was the 34-year-old veteran

Tony Cascarino with two

second-half goals to add to Ja-son McAteer's early strike.

"Another victory at home to Iceland next month will

make it a very happy Christ-mas for us all," said their manager Mick McCarthy.

McCarthy had promised that the Irish would be posi-tive from the start, and his young team wasted no time in

carrying out those instruc-

tions and warming a home

crowd of 31,671 supporters.
Only eight minutes had

gone when a sweeping move started by the Leeds defender

Ian Harte allowed Alan McLoughlin to set up a chance for Liverpool's Jason McAteer, whose 16-yard drive gave Danco Celeski no chance in the Macedonia goal. It was

attack, memories of less right was inspired, defeating happy Wembley nights both Wojtala's leap and Wozloomed.

Ominously England's attack began to lack width. Too many movements were concentrated in the crowded middle corridor — either that or long hopeful balls aimed vaguely in the direction of Ferdinand or Shearer.

Then after 25 minutes Shearer at last received the sort of ball he wanted and the scores were level. Beckham's long diagonal cross from the this seemed to matter.

Celeski that denied the Republic a further goal

through McLoughlin, but the

visitors gradually settled down and came close to an equaliser when Toni Micevs-ki's shot flew just over the

Cascarino, revelling in a

rare start in Irish territory, almost added to the Repub-

lic's lead after 28 minutes with a header touched over

Macedonia, skilful on the hall but lacking penetration, again might have equalised when Gosev led on a perfect ball for Partizan Belgrade's

Georgi Hristov just before

balf-time but his 20-yard

effort was inches wide. McCarthy shook the com-placency out of his team dur-

ing the interval with a pep-talk that produced instant results. O'Neill battered down

the challenge of sweeper Ni-kolovski and Cascarino was

on hand to hook the ball into

The sense of ferrets fighting for mastery

of a septic tank is depressing — poetry is

to be what the well-disposed new reader

wants to hear about.

Sean O'Brien

Books, G2 page 8

the national art, after all - and it's unlikely

the corner of the net. Two up after 46 minutes.

Group Eight: Republic of Ireland 3, Macedonia 0

Two-goal Cascarino

the Irish inspiration

Shearer, coming in behind Wojtala, headed firmly into the net and Wembley hearts acquired a more regular beat.

Nowak, however, continued to orchestrate Poland's movements and still England's de fence hung loose, inviting the angled pass and the well-timed attacking run. But, as long as Shearer retained his mood of the summer, none of

close before Cascarino scored a third goal in 70 minutes. A

cross from Blackburn's Jeff Kenna took a deflection off a

no mistake with a powerful

Gerce left-foot shot after a knock-down from Cascarino

the man of this match. Two mintues later the crowd roared

their appreciation when the

veteran John Aldridge came on They wanted him the score the goal that would have equalled Frank Stapleton's irish record of 20 goals at inter-national level, but despite the

encouragement of the Liffey roar Aldridge was happy just to be part of another great World Cup night.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND: A Kelly, Kenns, Irwin. Harta i Moore. 35min). Broan. Staunton. Townsend. McLoughlin (O'Brien. 88). O'Neilt (Aldridge, 82). McAlour. Capturing. Bellettinge. Science of the Milosuvov, Beganovic (Sakrir. 72). Sedicaki, Milosuvov, Mikolovski, Jovanovski, Josev. Tilicovski (Zaharievski, 60), Histov. Ciric, Milosevski. Raterese K. Fisker (Denmark).

close-range header. In the 80th minute Town send hit an upright with a

McAteer's first goal for the the Republic began to domi-Republic in 19 appearances. I nate the second period. Town-

time England were in front, thanks to Shearer's hunger for goals. McManaman, burrowing away skilfully, and Beckham, catching the Poles off guard with one late run through the middle, were being let down by Ferdinand's poor touch but now the Newcastle striker set up Shearer for a second goal. Shearer's first shot took

deflection off Wojtals and went straight to Ferdinand, who laid the ball straight back again. Shearer took two strides more before beating Wozniak with a thunderous drive from the penalty arc. Had a far-post header not been off target as he met Hinchcliffe's sharply inswing40 minutes. Six minutes into the second

half Pallister came off the bench to add height, weight and authority to England's defence — but not by choice. Southgate had burt an ankle trying to intercept the advancing Michalski and could not continue. England's football was still

far from impressive. Too often they gave the ball away in a midfield where they had been outnumbered for much

of the game. But McManaman and Beckham were doing well, consistently finding avenues of ap-proach to hit the Poles on the counter-attack and at their

Eight minutes before half- | ing corner, Shearer might | most dangerous when they were turning the opposition on the right. Gascoigne, too, was still capable of inspired moments and an audacious attempt to chip the Poland goalkeeper had Wozniak arching back to tip the ball over the bar.

ENGLAND: Secretar (Arsent); @ Noville (Manchester United). Sectlepite (Asion Ville. Fablister, Menchester United). Simin), Peerse (Notlingham Forest); Beetkbare (Manchester Linited), Josephine (Manchester Linited), Josephine (Flangers), Mischestiffe (Everton); Membanaman (Liverpool); Steerer (NewCasile), Ferniment (NewCasile).

Guardian Crossword No 20,780

Set by Rufus

Across

- 1 No more wine that's the
- 4 Order a cavalry attack (6)
- 9 Key study of ex-P.M. (4)
- 10 Quits the board, getting a fair settlement (6,4) 11 Old soldier taking flight (B)
- 12 Catalogue to the French pictures (8)
- 13 Always thoughtiess? Doesn't matter (5,4)
- 15 Kind of line used by a puffer

- 16 Be a shade over
- extravagant? (4)

24 The head's study (10)

- 25 Staff hold a course (4) 26 Be unsure of key in third movement (6)
- 27 It's unpleasant but return to discharge debts (6) Down 1 Doreen's bent back (7)
- 2 Some have eaten chips with fish (5)
- 3 Remedy found in no way strange (7)
- 5 By means of joining present
- and past (6)
- 6 Army jumpers (3,6)

18 Tried writing to the editor (7) 19 They're not at home with regulations (7)

20 Timber and mineral found on land (6)

23 Old ship under last bit of sali makes slow movement (5) Solution temorrow

The Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0891 338 238. Calls cost 50p per minute Mon-Fri, 8sm-6pm, and 45p per minute at all other times. Service

7 Obliteration is certain after time (7) 17 Island in the Atlantic rising above the horizon (9) 8 Killing time (7,6) 21 Dance I sat out, seeing an 14 Agitated farm animal that is offensive weapon (8) caught in a net, perhaps (9) 22 Show rank subservience? 16 Washed up when everyone was in bed (7)

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